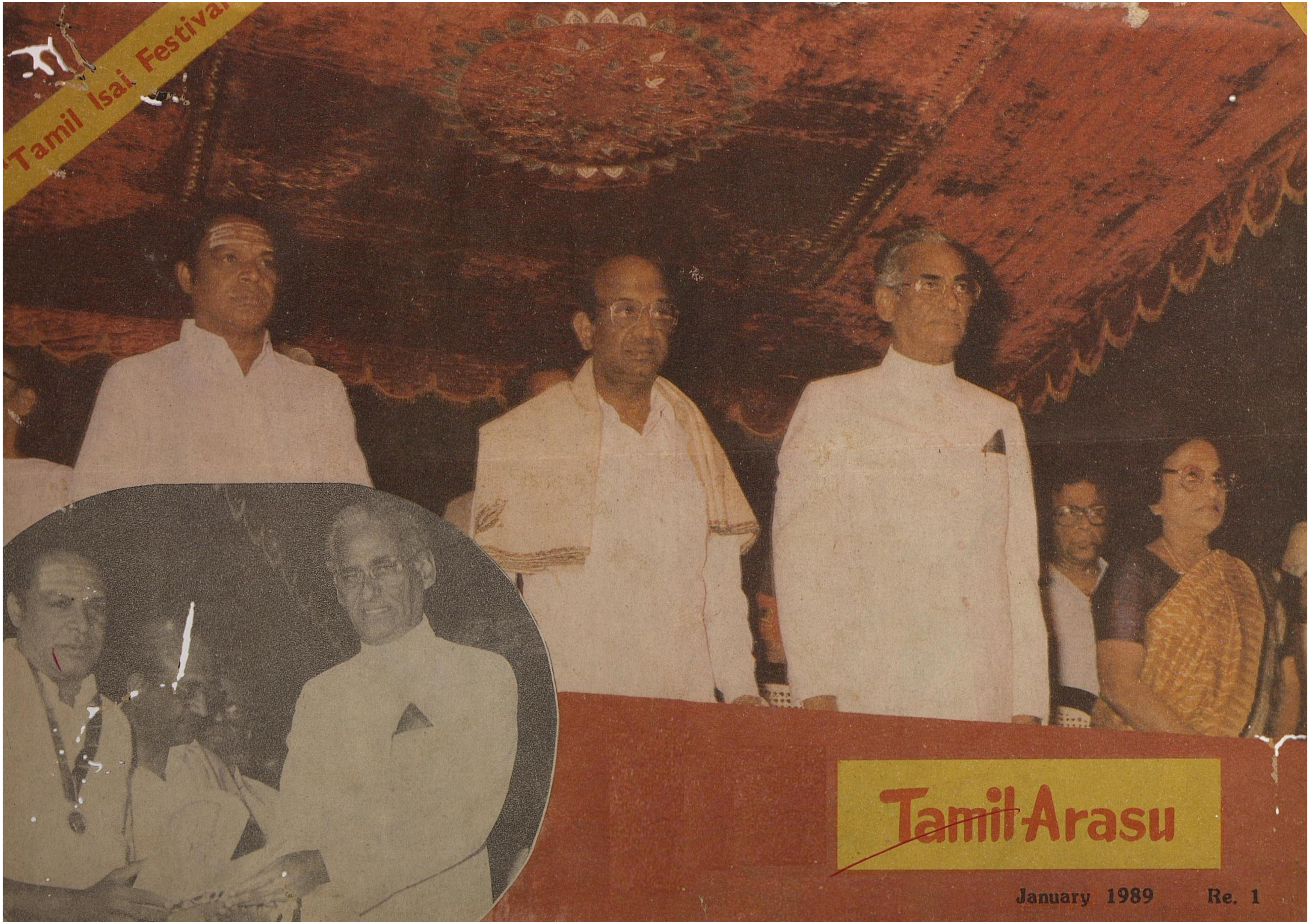
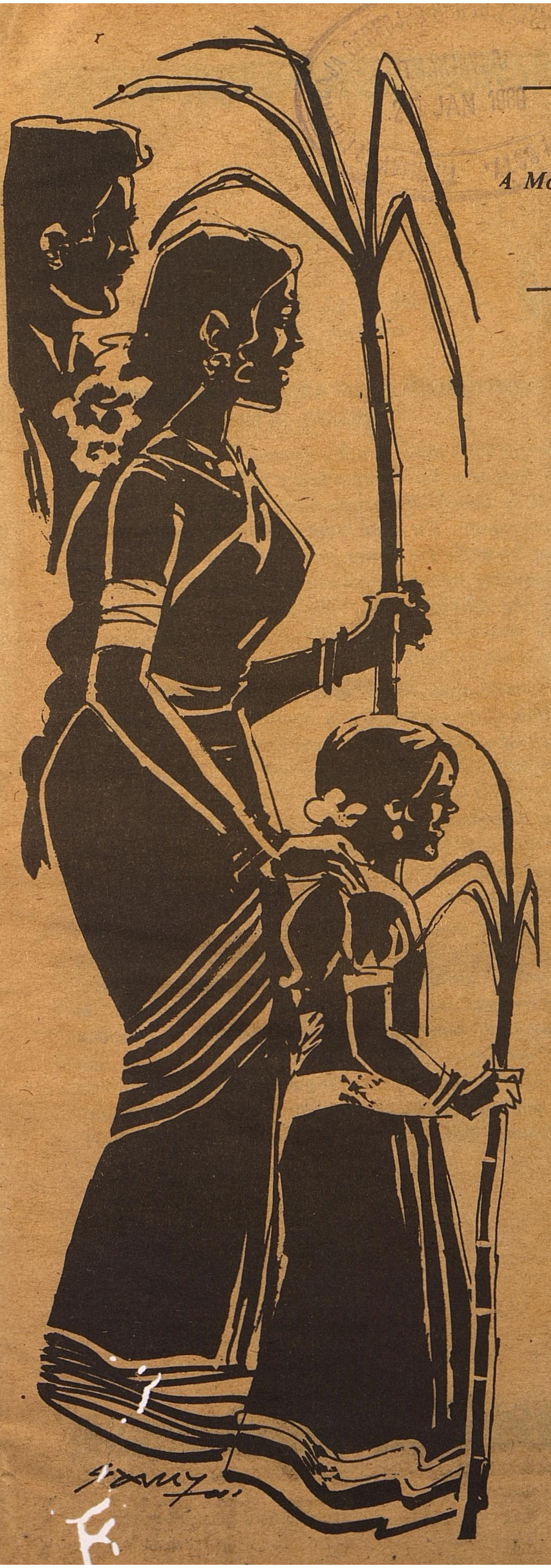


Tamil Arasu

January 1989 Re. 1

The approved model of Dr. M.G.R., Memorial



TAMIL ARASU

A Monthly Journal of the Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiruvalluvar Year 2019
January 1989

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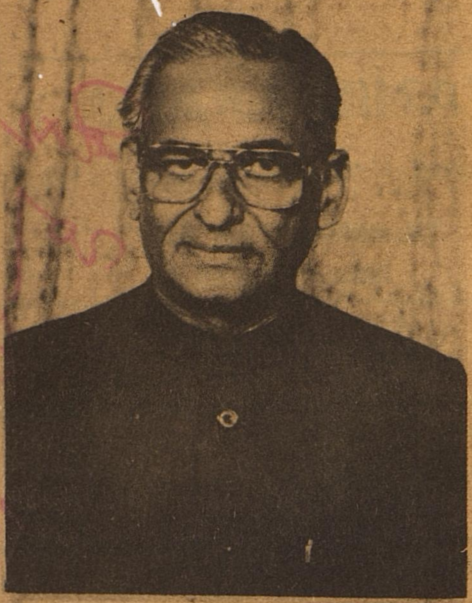
TAMIL ARASU

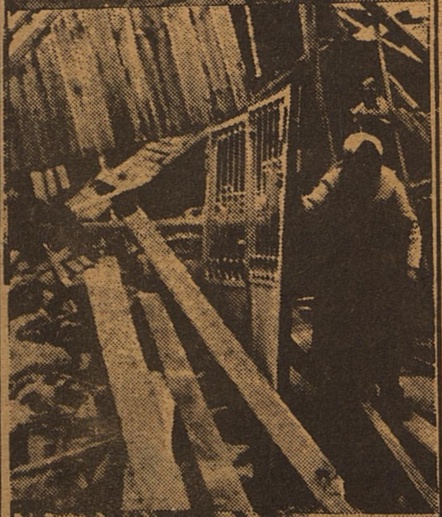
Wishes You

A Happy New Year

and

A Happy Pongal.





AN APPEAL

By

Dr. P. C. ALEXANDER

Governor of Tamil Nadu

For

CONTRIBUTION TO ARMENIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

The severe earthquake that hit Armenia in the Soviet Union on the 7th December has taken a heavy toll of human lives and property. More than 5 lakh people have been rendered homeless in this great tragedy. The main brunt of relief and reconstruction is of course borne by the Soviet people themselves. But, many countries including India have lent a helping hand by sending relief supplies to the affected areas. The first stage of the rescue operation is over and the more difficult task of rebuilding and restoration is yet to begin.

Our Prime Minister has set up a National Relief Committee for the victims of the earthquake in Armenia. The Government of India have also announced that contributions for this purpose would be eligible for relief under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. It is heartening to see that a number of organisations and individuals are sending their contributions spontaneously to the relief fund. In order to co-ordinate the efforts for fund collection in our State, a Committee has been set up under my Chairmanship.

While I thank those who have already sent in their contributions, may I appeal to everyone of you, voluntary organisations, public corporations, private companies, workers, students, teachers, Government servants, individuals to respond immediately and in good measure at this time of distress of the people of the Armenian Republic of the Soviet Union. The contributions may be sent before 31st Jan. '89 preferably by cheque in favour of the "Prime Minister's Armenia Earthquake Relief Fund" to the Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, Fort St. George, Madras-600 009

Governor of Tamil Nadu
and
Chairman of the State Level Committee
for Prime Minister's
Armenia Earthquake Relief Fund

Governor's call to Preserve Purity of Classical Music

His Excellency the Governor of TamilNadu Dr. P. C. Alexander, while inaugurating the 46th annual festival of the Tamil Isai Sangam, on 22nd December 88 referred to "Chitrahaar" culture of the people-Always people eagerly listen to cine-music, which could not be halted or overpowered. But there was no danger from it and a separate place should be given to it. The Governor reminded the people of TamilNadu to preserve the purity of classical music.

Thiru A.K.C.Natarajan, the clarionet "Samrat" presided over the music festival. He was conferred with the title of "Isai Periarignar" on that occasion.

Thiru P.R.Gokulakrishnan, the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and president of the Tamil Isai Sangam, welcomed the gathering. During the speech, he mentioned about the impact of the movement and the support it derived from the people.

Tamil Isai Movement :

The Governor said that he had been exposed to the vigour and vitality of Tamil Isai movement when he was working in the Annamalai University. While doing research on "Buddhism in Kerala" he had his first real exposure to the source of the cultural heritage of Tamil.

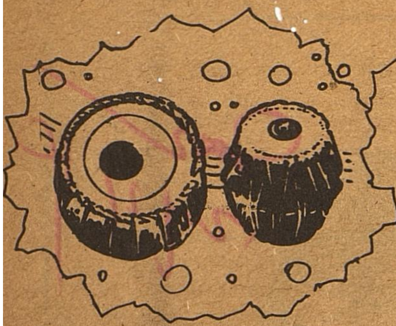
Tamil Isai movement was started in the early forties. This was a renaissance movement then and people welcomed it.

Thiru Raja Annamalai Chettiar actually renewed the interest of the people of TamilNadu in their own music which had been developed over period. Thiru A.K.C. Natarajan cited a reference about the heights reached by Thevaram music and the depths to which it had gone down. Therefore, Tamil people should always be indebted to him and to Thiru M.A.Muthiah Chettiar and others who have lent their full support to it and continued the work with great vigour. The Governor appealed to the people of TamilNadu to keep the traditional forms of classical music in tact. The Music lovers should made all efforts to preserve its purity.

Importance to Thevaram: Thiru A.K.C.Natarajan the Clarionet vidwan pleaded for re-structuring of the Thevarams and other devotional hyms. These songs must be used as part of the main concert instead of being relegated to at the end and treated as the "miscellany". This would not mean a departure from the tradition but an "adaptation" only.

He said that the "Carnatic" style was not something alien to Tamilmusic. The ancient "Panns" have progressively changed their complexion in course of time and these have been incorporated in the Melakarta system by Venkatamakhi. There were several texts describing the growth of Tamil music. The Sangam period's "Paripaadal' were also set in Tamil music but the details about the pattern adopted were lacking. Based on the thousand stringed Yazh, with 24 basic struthis, there were 103 panns but only 18 are in vogue to day.

The citation for Thiru Natarajan was read by Thiru L.P.Kr. Ramanathan Chettiar. The president of the conference distributed prizes to winners in competitions and Certificates to Tamil Kalloori students.



Culture and Music of Tamil Nadu

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C. Alexander inaugurated the annual conference of the Music Academy on 19th December '88. In his address to the citizens of Madras, the Governor appealed to them to continue their commitment to the rich culture they had inherited from the past without being diluted by other influences. He also referred to the temples of Tamil Nadu which served not only as the repositories of arts but as abodes of God.

In Madras the months of December-January brought changes in the weather condition. Like that the mood of the people also changes during these months. All musical instruments became very active. This was a great tradition which they had maintained all along. While in the north the life, culture and ethos of people were transformed by foreign invasion, the south India was not affected for a long time. Madras, a place where they landed it, remained uninfluenced in spite of 250 years of occupation. The culture and history of the people remained same. The Governor said "We took the best from the West like the administrative machinery and legal systems but we preserved the south Indian Culture intact." The institution of temples had exercised such a great and an abiding influence.

All forms of art, classical and folk were supported by temples. The pristine purity of most of them were maintained. In spite of cinema, the people of South India, particularly Tamil Nadu maintained their traditional art forms. This was the main reason that the classical music survived.

The Governor said "Attending the musical festivals itself was an experience. It was not a mere entertainment but really a spiritual experience". Music was considered to be an expression of devotion by the great trinity. The great Saint Thyagaraja attained sainthood only through music, resisting even the lure of gold. This commitment should always be maintained.

Introduction of 'Safe Motherhood Project' in Tamil Nadu

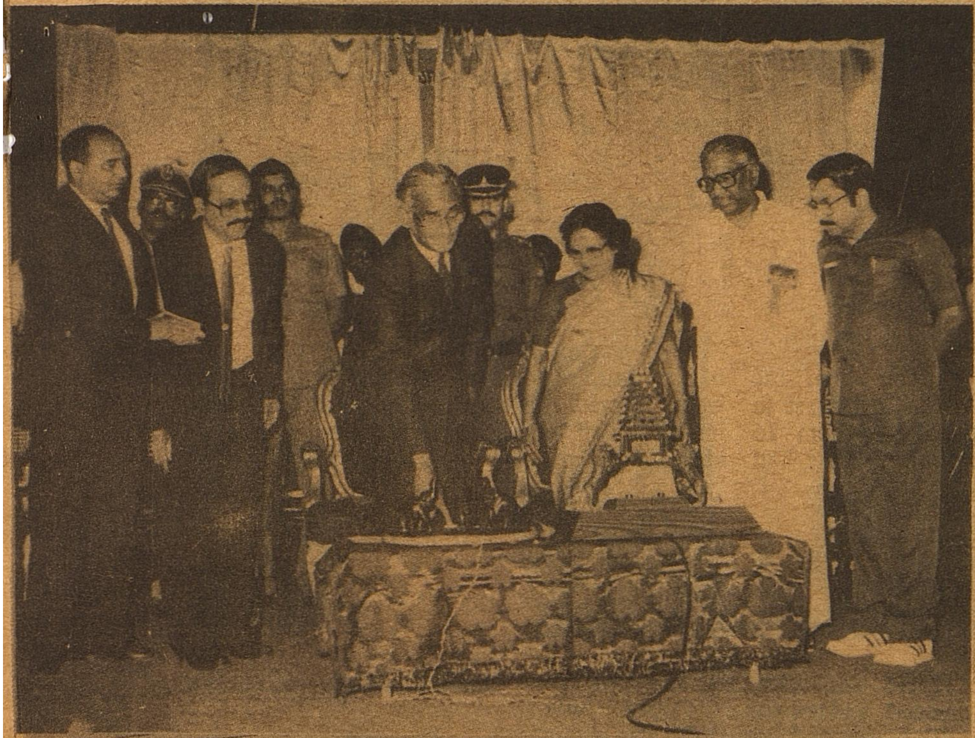
The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced a new Scheme called 'Safe Motherhood Project' in order to safeguard mothers and children through intensified primary health care activities.

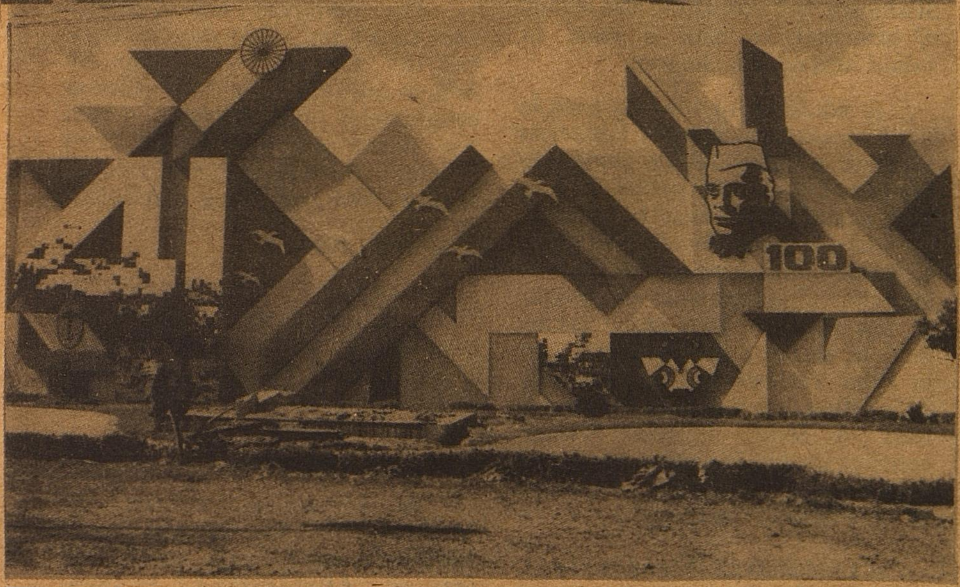
Under their project, neo-natal care will be established at the primary health centre and referral systems will be tried out.

The project involves a co-ordinated approach in promoting maternal and infant health integrating nutrition component also. The accent is on making motherhood a safe and rewarding experience eliminating most of the risks associated.

The new project seeks to reach various maternal and child care goals which are of the highest value and are undisputably urgent.

Tmt. Ackama Alexander inaugurated the project at the inaugural function held at Karamai puducherry village on the 19th December 1988.





All India Tourist and Industrial Fair

This year the All India Tourist and Industrial Fair 1989, was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C. Alexander, on 5-1-1989. Tmt. Ackama Alexander, wife of the Governor lighted a 'Kuthuvilaku' to mark the inauguration. While inaugurating the Fair the Governor said that a parallel road to Mahabalipuram has been sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Government for the benefit of the tourists. The Governor expressed regret that the Tourism Industry had not so well developed and good as that made by the Industrial sector. The drought for the past four years had caused serious problems to the small Industries. But this year the situation has improved a lot. The Governor also said 'Madurai' and 'Rameswaram' attracted a large number of Tourists and the Pamban bridge will definitely give a boost to tourism sector. The Governor also commissioned the air conditioned coaches of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation and distributed prizes to winners of the M. G. R. memorial design competition. Dr. Kalanidhi M.P., Thiru N.V.N. Somu M.P., also spoke on that occasion. Thiru C. N. Ramdas I.A.S. Special Commissioner and Secretary, Information and Tourism Department welcomed the gathering and Thiru Ashoke Joshi I.A.S., Managing Director, T.T.D.C. proposed a vote of thanks.

The All India Tourist and Industrial Fair is being organised annually by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, an undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the past 14 years. This year's Fair is designed to be distinct, and an improvement over the Fair held in the past. In every respect major changes have been effected, in particular, in the layout display, content and presentation.

The Fair Land is located on an extent of 22 acres on both side of the Cooum river between Anna Salai and the Beach Road near War Memorial.

Objectives of the Fair :

The main objective of the Fair is to project and publicise the progress and achievements of Tamil Nadu in the field of Industry and the effects taken for the socio-economic uplift of the people. The Fair also projects the important tourist centres in Tamil Nadu for the benefit of not only the people of Tamil Nadu but to those in different parts of India and abroad and thus help tourism promotion in the State, further the economic development. This Fair is therefore organised annually during the peak tourist season of December, January coinciding with the Pongal Festival, the most important Festival of the Tamilians.

Last year the All India Tourists and Industrial Fair 1988 was not conducted due to drought condition throughout in Tamil Nadu

Presentation of the Fair :

The entrance view of the Fair is the replica of the theme of 41st Anniversary of India's Independance and Birth Centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The eastern side of the Fair has been designed and provided with beautiful green lawns on either side, so as to provide shaddy pleasant atmosphere for the visiting public for relaxation.

Participants

This year 25 State Government Departments, 11 Tamil Nadu State Government Undertakings, 5 Central Government Undertakings, 3 Other State Government Departments & Undertakings, 38 Private Sectors Organisations and 208 Stalls are participating in the All India Tourist and Industrial Fair.

Sittrarangam :

Cultural programmes, Folk arts and other traditional dances will be held daily at the existing Sittrarangam.

Annai Indira Gandhi Children Paradise

The "Children's Paradise" named after our late Prime Minister Tmt. India Gandhi laid out in a spacious location provides immense opportunity for the children to learn while they play, new facilities at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs have been acquired and added to the Children'sParadise. There are facilities for the physically handicapped children to play here. Horse and Elephant joy ride are added attractions. Karate, Judo, Silambam and boxing are also arranged here daily to instil a sense of valour among the children.

In addition for the first time in the Fair History, Madras Refineries Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking have put up a colourful pavilion near Annai Indira Gandhi Children Paradise, with the aim of teaching the Children about Science and Technology through simple working models. In this Pavilion, attractive working models, showing the principles used in Film Technology, Broadcasting Telecasting conservation of Energy used in Steam Engines, Circuit contacts used in Electrical appliances and also the effects due to shifting of gravitational forces.

A smokeless chulah (oven) developed by Development alternatives and Madras Refineries Limited, which gives more heat and very less smoke is displayed in this pavilion. This will be very useful to the poor people in Rural area who are still using firewood as fuel.

Hotel Tamil Nadu :

Hygienically prepared food items are offered at inexpensive prices to the public at the Hotel Tamil Nadu, Drive-in-Restaurant of Tamil Nadu Tourist Development Corporation permanently located in the Fair Grounds.

Anna Open Air Auditorium:

The auditorium, a semi-permanent structure, where the inaugural and the valedictory functions are held is the venue for daily cultural programmes like drama, music, and dance, etc. State level cultural programmes implying the National integrity are also being conducted.

Shopping Arcade :

Colourful Textiles, Handicrafts, Toys, Kitchen ware, Cosmetics, House-hold appliances and a score of other items brought from different parts of India are on sale at the Shopping Arcade.

Amusement Complex :

An Amusement Complex with Modern Scientific Electrical and Electronic equipments similar to that of "APPU-GHAR" in New Delhi will be put up for the entertainment for Children as well as adults. Apart from the above regular feature like Acquarium, Musical fountain, Cinema, Snake park, Dog Show, Food Fair, Horticultural Show are being presented.

Thus the Fair offers an opportunity as the best mass media to get know the day to day activities and it also stands as the best entertainment for all classes of people with free entry for children upto 12 years Neverthless to mention that the Fair provides employment opportunity to thousands.

GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE TAMILNADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-1989

NOTIFICATION CALLING UPON ALL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN THE STATE OF TAMILNADU TO ELECT MEMBERS

Whereas the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu has been dissolved by the President of India on 30th January 1988 under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.

And ,whereas it is necessary to hold a general election for the purpose of constituting a new Legislative Assembly for the State;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Governor of Tamil Nadu is hereby pleased, as recommended by the Election Commission, to call upon all the assembly constituencies in the State to elect members in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and of the Rules and Orders made thereunder.

.M.M.RAJENDRAN,
Chief Secretary.

PROGRAMME

The Election Commission of India has announced the programme for the General Elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assemly. The programme is given below:

1. Opening of Nominations — 19th December 1988 (MONDAY)
2. The last date for filing of Nomination — 26th December 1988 (MONDAY)
3. The date for the scrutiny of Nominations — 27th December 1988 (TUESDAY)
4. The last date for the withdrawal of candidatures — 29th December 1988 (THURSDAY)
5. Poll date — 21st January 1989 (SATURDAY)

2. The poll hours will be from 8.00 AM to 4.00 PM.

Vote- A Precious Right

Radio Talk Delivered by Thiru D.K.Oza,IAS,Chief Electoral Officer Government of Tamil Nadu on 29.12.88

We had our last General Elections in Tamil Nadu in December 1984- both for the Lok Sabha and for the State Legislative Assembly. Once again in January 1989 we are having the General Elections to theAssembly alone. Now for that we are completely prepared. Our training programmes for the polling staff have begun. We have begun all the arrangements,planned all the arrangements- for the police staff.who will maintain law and order and peaceful polling. There are almost forty three thousand polling booths all over Tamil Nadu. This number keeps on increasing by about 10 percent every year. There are a little over three and half crore voters in Tamil Nadu. This figure also increases by about 10 percent every four years. Now to look after so many polling booths and so many voters we have trained almost three lakh Government staff to do polling duty. They have been trained thoroughly in how to locate the voters name in the roll, how to mark the finger with the indelible ink, how to hand over the ballot paper, how to instruct the voter to mark the ballot paper, how to go beyond a curtain to mark his own choice and then to put it in the ballot box, which is kept in the front of the Presiding Officer .Now these staff have been thoroughly trained in a series of lectures and this time we have produced even a video movie, which is about the best way of training the people. Movies have a tremendous educational value and these movies have been carefully prepared by us and approved by the ElectionCommission of India for purpose of training of our staff. Now all the election materials are ready. The ballot papers will also get printed on time and distributed to all the 234 Assembly Constituencies throughout the State. The point is this. The voters, who are registered, if they have little patience and are willing to wait for about half an hour sometime, about an hour, they will get the ballot paper in their hand which they can mark according to their own choice. We will count the ballot paper and the choice of the voters and that will form the Government that we will have in Tamil Nadu

"To vote is a very important right. It is a precious right. Use it carefully, use it, go and vote. This is what I want to say."

soon after the polling. The counting begins the next day morning i.e. 22nd morning and will continue without interruption until the results are declared. We hope to declare the results within approximately 16 hours of the commencement of the counting, that will be a little after the midnight of 22nd and 23rd. Even the polling which begins at 8AM in the morning, is continuous without any break. It goes on till 4 p.m. and those who are in the que at 4 p.m. have the right to vote irrespective of the time. Now all these requires a good deal of hard work, good deal of planning, good deal of training, good deal of meeting all the political parties and the candidates by various district authorities emphasising that there is Code of conduct for everyone, that is for the party, for the candidates and for the Government officials. In this the media also play a tremendous role. The TV, the radio, the newspapers and the magazines to educate the voter. They bring about a political awareness and political education among the voters. All this is very healthy and good for our democratic process. Now all polling procedures are the same year after year, election after election. This time, however, we have made one important change. In the big cities we are going to keep some identification Officers just outside the polling booths to ensure that impersonisation of false vote does not occur on a large scale. I must confess that I have received complaints that many people, who go to vote a little later after two or three hours of the commencement of the poll sometimes find that the vote has been cast by someone else. By someone who has a dishonest motive. Now we are doing our best to see that this does not happen. If we suspect the identity of some voter, we will challenge him and question him. But even candidates who have a right to keep their agents inside each polling booth, they should be little alert to see that no wrong person casts an dishonest vote. We are trying to eliminate this, fairly serious irregularities. But no system is perfect. I am not claiming any perfection for the electoral system here. This can be all improved. But only way it can improve is that if you find some defects, if you find that somebody has cast your vote dishonestly, if you find that you have to wait too long in the que, if you find that it took a lot of time in the voters list in the electoral roll etc. whatever it is, do write to the newspapers. We want complaints, we want criticism. The only way for the system to improve is by receiving criticism, complaints suggestions. It does not matter if your criticism is not alright, it does not matter even if your criticism is wrong and we want to be criticised, we want to receive suggestions. So do write letters in Tamil, English newspapers pointing out anything that you saw. There are other things which you except the voters do or not to do. Polling booths are quiet near. It never as a rule involves anything more than two kilometers of walking. It is good to walk. Do not ask any candidate or party to give you free transport or give you anything at all.

Important Code of conduct for the Guidance of political parties and candidates.

There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.

All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are "corrupt practices" and offences under the election law, such as the bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, personation of voters, canvassing within 100 metres of a polling station, holding public meetings during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.

Polling Day:

All political parties and candidates shall—

(i) co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;

(ii) supply to their authorised workers suitable badges or identity cards;

(iii) agree that the identity slips supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white) papers and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party;

(iv) refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the twenty four hours preceding it.

(v) not allow unnecessary crowds to be collected near the camps set up by the political parties and candidates near the polling booths so as to avoid confrontation and tension among workers and sympathisers of the parties and candidates.

(vi) ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple-They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material. No eatables shall be served or crowds allowed at the camps: and

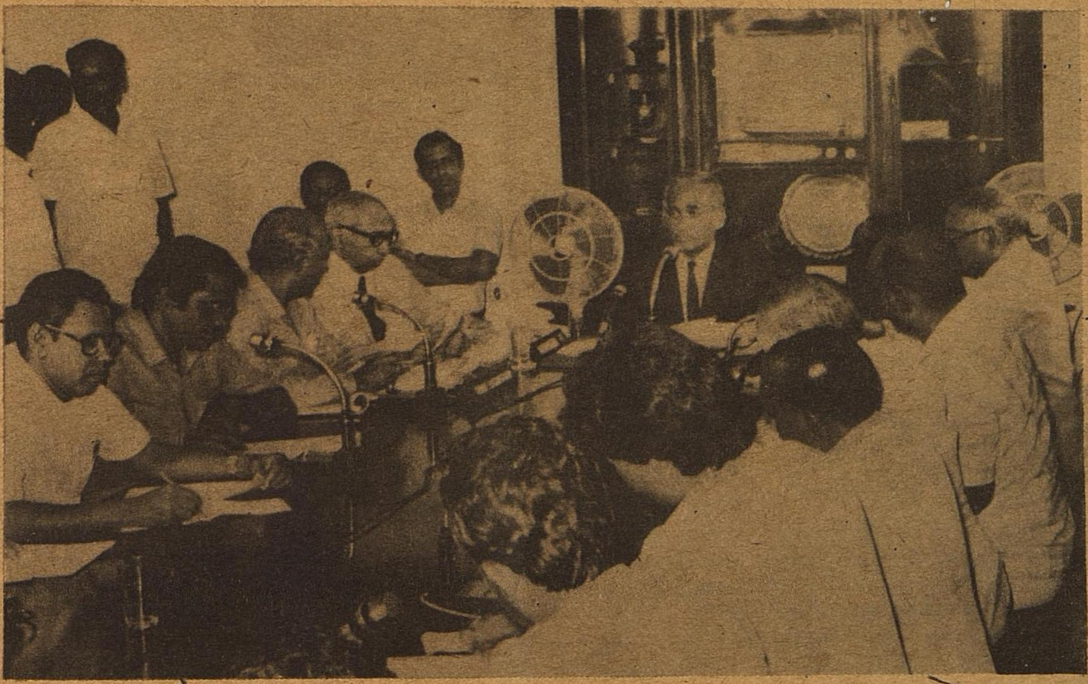
(vii) co-operate with the authorities in complying with the restrictions to be imposed on the plying of vehicles on the polling day and obtain permits for them which should be displayed prominently on those vehicles.

Polling Booth:

Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Election Commission shall enter the polling booths.

Observers

The Election Commission is appointing observers. If the candidates or their agents have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of the elections they may bring the same to the notice of the observers.



A Comprehensive survey – to collect data on Backward Classes

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C.Alexander, in his press conference on 12.12.88 said that the total reservation for the various groups of Backward Classes would remain at the existing level of 50 per cent. The mandatory 18 per cent reservation for Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes would continue. The Government has ordered a comprehensive survey to get reliable data on the numerical strength of the different communities and groups and the level of backwardness for fixing their respective percentages of reservation within the over-all limit for Backward Classes. **Thiru P. V. Venkatakrishnan, Special Commissioner and Commissioner for Land Reforms has been appointed as special Officer for the survey. He has been asked to complete the task within nine months.**

The Governor said "Thus the process towards achieving the objective of Vanniars and other backward classes has been set in motion. I do hope that since these decisions have been taken in consultation with the Government of India, there will soon be a satisfactory solution to this problem".

Separate Reservation: Highlighting the salient features in the above scheme, the Governor said that it was for the first time that the Government has accepted the principle of separate reservation. The Vanniar community and the 38 other communities that figure in the list categorised as Most Backward in 1972, would be one such group that would get the benefit of separate reservation.

The Tamil Nadu Government has accepted in principle the main demand of the Vanniar and certain other backward communities for compartmental reservation for purpose of admission to State Services and Educational Institutions.

The Government recognised that the denotified communities should continue to enjoy the educational and other concessions now available to them. They also deserved to be sub-categorised for purposes of separate reservation in public services and educational institutions.

The Government would consider separate reservation for other backward communities after getting more reliable and accurate data on the relative numerical strength and backwardness of different communities.

Earnest effort has been made by the Government to arrive at a set of decisions which would definitely be satisfactory to all communities. What had been offered at this juncture was the utmost that could be expected from the State Government. The Governor exprcssed his hope that all backward communities would welcome the above decisions of the Government and appealed to them to cooperate with the government in their smooth implementation.

During the last several months, there had been representations from

the Vanniar and other backward classes about the need to review the present system of reservation under which all the Backward Classes together had a 50 percent reservation.

The Vanniars wanted a sub-classification of the more backward communities according to their relative backwardness and separate reservation to each group within the overall 50 per cent. Their demand was for 20 per cent compartmental reservation in State Services and Educational Institutions and 2 per cent in Central Services.

Besides Vanniars, the Governor had received representations from over 40 Associations of different communities mostly claiming compartmental reservation and giving their own figures about their numerical strength ,which when added up put the State's population at around 11 crores. So with these exaggerated claims a reasonable solution could not be found unless there was a good survey.

The proposed survey would be almost a census because there would be house to house enumeration, and the data would provide a definite basis to decide on the representations of each community.

The Governor said that the wise leadership of the Vanniar community will accept the government decision in good faith because the government accepted their demand in principle The Government recognised that there should be a compartmental reservation for the Vanniar community, and for the first time it was being accepted as one of the most backward communities in the list of Backward Classes.

Numerical strength: The Govei nor said that almost all the communities who approached the Government asked for inclusion in the list of most backward classes and the Government is giving due consideration to them on the basis of their numerical strength.

He could not rule out the posibility of any more inclusions in the list of Most Backward: but no more communities would be added to the backward classes list, and "202 will be the list".

The Governor said that in the absense of reliable data, no tentative decision could be possible on the demand of Vanniars or other groups which were now recognised as "most backward". The 1921 Census - the last one done on community basis taken when Madras was a Composite State and so much had happened in the last 67 years.

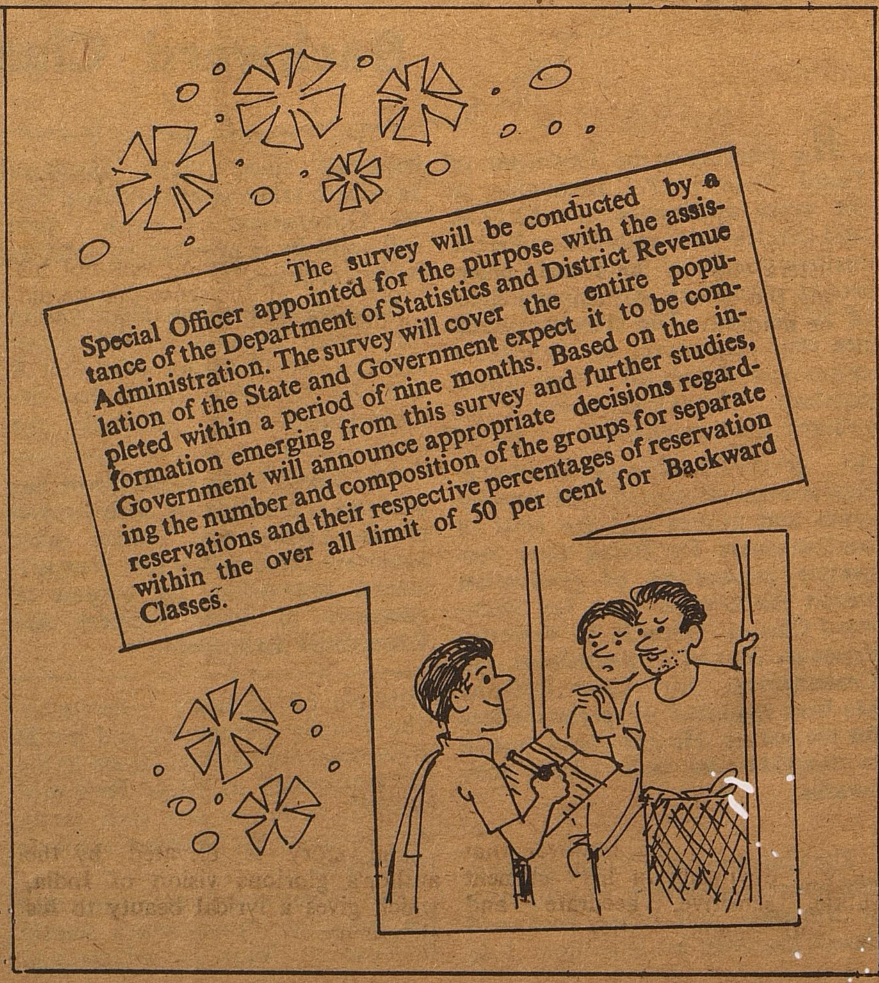
The Governor pointed out that the Ambasankar Commission report did contain any figures about the strength of various communities, but it had been disowned by other members of the Commission. Therefore, the information given in it could not he taken as the basis for fixing the percentage even provisionally.

The Governor said although the Census Act did not pei mit collection of data on community basis, it did not preclude the State Government from doing such a survey to assess the strength of various communities for its information.

Would the elected Government to take office next month accept the compartmental reservation scheme? The Government of India deputed a senior Minister, Thiru P.V.Narasimha Rao, to discuss the issue and only after due consideration these decisions were taken by the Government and this will be found acceptable to the successor Government also.

With regard to the Assembly Elections the Governor said that once the decision to conduct the elections was taken, the Government would go ahead with its plan and the Government will be duty-bound to conduct the elections".

The Central Government had clarified that it would not accept any compartmental reservation for any group or community in Central services. Therefore this reservation is only for State Government. All other State Governments in the South have accepted it.



NEHRU-THE MAN OF LETTERS

Thiru D. Anjaneyulu

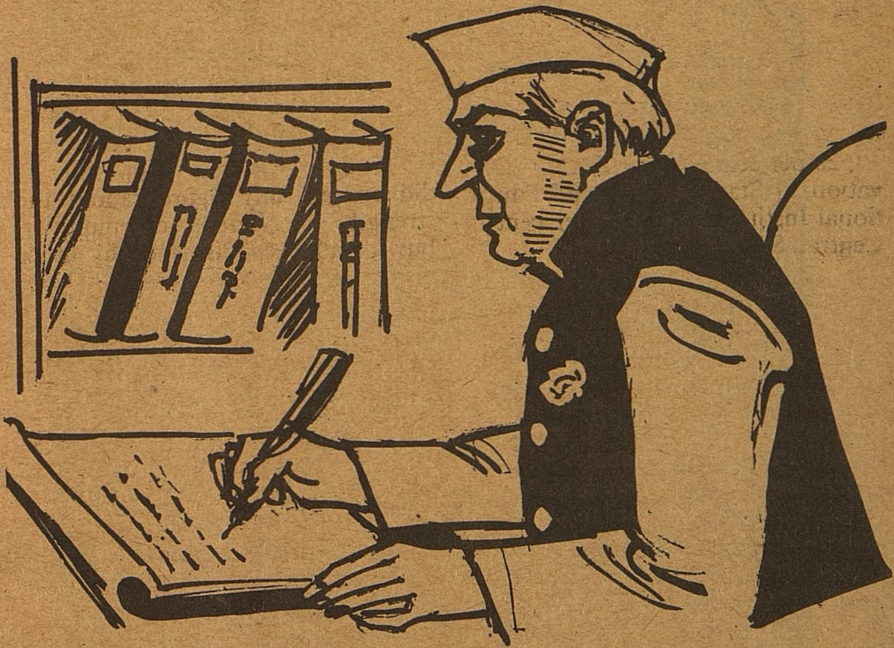
Jawaharlal Nehru, free India's first Prime Minister, was born on 14th November 1889 and died on 27th May 1964.

With every passing year, after his death in 1964,the image of Jawaharlal Nehru the political leader seems to be receding from the minds of most Indians. It is not easy for us now to imagine the place he once occupied in the public life of this country, and in the world of International affairs, for two decades.

But one could say with growing confidence that as the image of Nehru, the man of affairs, tends to get hazier and hazier, the image of Nehru, the man of letters, could become clearer and clearer. Certainly it is possible to study it in perspective, undisturbed by the adventitious aid of political eminence. The political aspect could, of course, never be entirely separated from the literary in the study of a man for whom the political battle was the dominant part of life's experience.

Winston Churchill and Jawaharlal Nehru are the only two Prime Ministers who have an assured place among the galaxy of men of letters in the modern world. They are both historians who had made history. Nehru was a sensitive artist who poured out his soul into his work and discovered himself in his writings.

The literary maxim, "the style is the man", is nowhere truer than in the discussion of Nehru the writter. In his hectic life as the Nations' leader and Prime Minister, Nehru must have addressed countless public meetings and there were memorable occasions when he rose to lofty heights of impassioned eloquence. But somehow, the impression was inescapable that in many of his public speeches, Nehru tended to be rather prolix, repetitious and rambling. It was in his writting, however, that he was obviously in his element subtle, sensitive, accurate and brilliantly communicative.



The corpus of Nehru's writing could be broadly divided under four heads; History, Biography, Journalism and Personal Letters. He was not a 'professional', so called, in any of the first three catagories. Indeed, he was no professional writer in the usually accepted sense of the term. Writing was not his 'profession', in the sense that he did not depend on it for a living. But, he was really an artist with words and ideas.

Among the earliest of Nehru's major writings is the **GLIMPSES OF WORLD HISTORY**, originally written in the form of letters to his daughter in the year 1930-33.

THE DISCOVERY OF INDIA, is a more mature and ambitious work. It is described by Sardar K.M.Panikkar, a rare type of historian himself, as "something of a pilgrim's progress in history". An apt and happy expression, that has an inspired quality about it.

The story is elevated by the author's glorious vision of India, which gives a lyrical beauty to his eloquence:

"About her there is the elusive quality of a legend of long ago; some enchantment seems to have held her mind. She is a myth and an idea, a dream and vision and yet very real and present and pervasive. There are terrifying glimpses of dark corridors which seem to lead back to primeval night, but also there is the fullness and warmth of the day about her".

Though it is generally rather diffuse in the organization of the matter, it is punctuated with passages of surpassing charm. The moon, a hackneyed, overworked symbol in conventional poetry, wears a refreshingly new aspect, as seen from the prision-window in the Ahmednagar Fort.

"The moon, ever a companion to me in prison, has grown more friendly with closer acquaintance, a reminder of the loneliness of this world, of the waxing and waning of life, of light following darkness, of death and resurrection following each other in interminable succession."

Nehru, the historian, could be seen to be in the tradition of Gibbon

and Macaulay, at least in his panoramic treatment of the material at his disposal. He has none of the refined cynicism and cultivated scepticism of the one or the political dogmatism and habitual cocksureness of the other. May be, he is closer to G.M. Trevelyan, whose Garibaldi trilogy had an abiding influence on the younger under-graduate at Trinity, Cambridge.

The most significant of Nehru's works is "AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY" It is also one of the most significant of Indian autobiographies. It represents the highest watermark of his literary achievement. It has the merit of being closeknit, unlike some of his other works.

It is an integral whole in which the different strands of his own eventful life are skilfully interwoven with those of the nation in torment and a world in turmoil. This is made possible as much by the authors artistic vision and historical perspective as by his active involvement in the country's destinies and his lively awareness of world affairs.

There is a beautiful fusing of the subjective and the objective elements in Nehru (as seen through his **Autobiography**) the subjective self always coming to terms with the world of objective reality. For all his participation in the national upsurges and involvement in international convulsions, that must leave little time to a man of affairs like him, Nehru is introspective like a philosophic recluse in the woods.

Despite the stresses and strains of a hectic political life, as already mentioned, Nehru was able to look at himself dispassionately and objectively.

"...... I have become a queer mixture of the East and the West, out of place everywhere, at home nowhere. Perhaps my thoughts and approach to life are more akin to what is called Western than Eastern, but India clings to me, as she does to all her children, in innumberable ways: ....I am a stranger and alien in the West. I cannot be of it. But in my own country also, sometimes, I have an exile's feeling."

This is no less true of the modern educated Indian, in a lesser or greater measure.

The only other book that could profitably be compared with Nehru's is that of Nirad C. Chaudhuri : **"THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN UNKNOWN INDIAN". While** Gandhi's is mainly a confessional, a documented record of his life's experiment, Chaudhuri's could be recognised as essentially a history of ideas, as that of john Stuart Mill for instance. It is the story of the evolution of a non-conformist intellectual. Nehru's work is a happier blend of facts and ideas and is marked by maturity and poise.

As a letter -writer, Nehru compels attention, from the student of literature as well as the observer of human nature. In an age of speed and mechanisation, the typewriter and the tape-recorder had almost killed the epistolary art, which belongs to a more leisurely period. It is pleasing to remember that Nehru wrote some letters of great charm and beauty.

Among the other great Indian letter-writer, the Mahatma is cryptic and his one - line postcards are famous. Rajaji is brief and business-like. Dr.Radhakrishnan does not linger on the letters. He relaxes in conversation. The nearest approach to the Nehru style in letter-writing is that of the late Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. He has a similar warmth and sensitivity, but he is more sentimental and less substantail than Nehru.

From literature to journalism

The capacity of dispassionate analysis and the ability to look at himself through the eyes of other people marks out Nehru the journalist as well as Nehru the writer. The celebrated, paseudonymous sketch of himself (by **"Chanakya"**) in the **'MODERN REVIEW'** is one of the best pieces in political journalism-witty, sharp and unsparing.

".....And yet he has all the makings of a dictator in him-vast popularity, a strong will, energy, pride-and with all his love of the crowd and intolerance of others and a certain con-

tempt for the weak or inefficient. His flashes of temper are well known. His overwhelming desire to get things done, to sweep away what he dislikes and build a new, will hardly brook for long the slow processes of democracy."

While the world was familiar with Nehru's association with the 'NATIONAL HERALD' and had occasion to read his signed articles (in the Newspaper) with admiration and avidity, not many are aware of the fact that he often wrote them unsigned. On one occasion, in the year 1940, after a gruelling day of touring the villages near Lucknow, Nehru reached the office of the HERALD by midnight and asking for a scribbling pad, wrote out a report of his tour of Barabanki. Not only the mofussil correspondent but the Editor was pleasantly surprised at the report published the next morning.

As early as in 1928, Nehru contributed a series of articles to 'THE HINDU' and 'YOUNG INDIA', on the impressions of his first visit to Soviet Russia, along with his father, wife and sister. These articles, collected in book form in 1929 and reprinted two decades later, give a fairly comprehensive picture of the Russian people under the new dispensation. Like a good journalist, he always kept his eyes and ears open and he covered all aspects of the subject. Summing up the series, he observed.

"Russia is our neighbour, a giant sprawling half over Asia and Europe and between such neighbours there can be either amity or enmity. Indidifference is out of the question".

Over three decades ago, John-Gunther said of Nehru in his "IN SIDE ASIA" : "Hardly a dozen men alive, write English as well as Nehru". A high tribute indeed. But it holds good even to this day. It was based on the quality of writing in his "Autobiography". He was simple, direct and concrete in expression. He wrote with clarity and conviction, because he felt with a deep sincerity. He was a great writer; he was a great artist; he was a great man.

KETHIREDDY VIDYAPEETHAM HONOURED EMINENT POETS

Kethireddy Vidyapeetham, Madras honoured the eminent poets who have participated in the 10th World Poets Congress held recently at Bangcok.

Dr. A. Padmanaban, I.A.S., Adviser to the Governor was honoured at this function held at Film Chambers Theatre, Madras on 21.12.88. Dr. Krishna Srinivas, President, World Poetry Society presided.

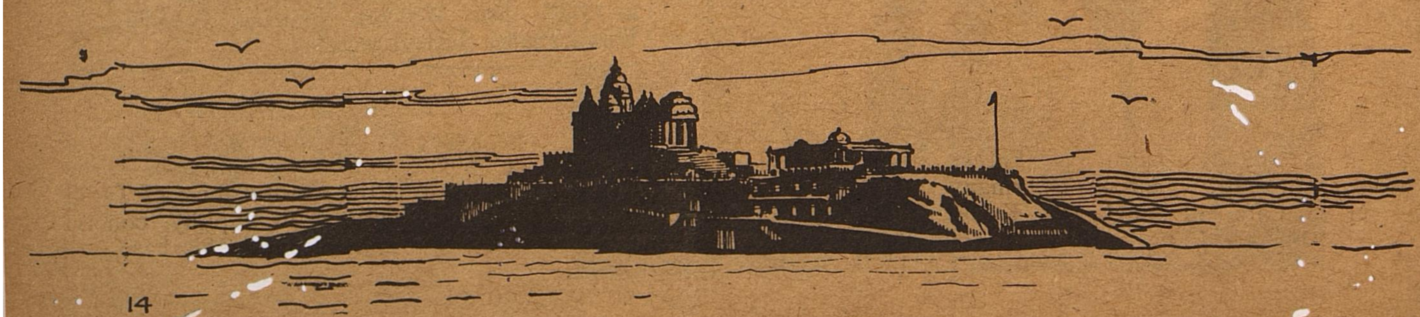
Lay down your comforts, your pleasures, your name, fame or position, nay even your lives, and make a bridge of human chains over which millions will cross this ocean of life. Bring all the forces of good together. Do not care under what banner you march. Do not care what be your colour — green, blue, or red — but mix all the colours up and produce that intense glow of white, the colour of love. Ours is to work. The results will take care of themselves.

Before flooding India with socialistic and political ideas, first deluge the land with spiritual ideas. The first work that demands our attention is that the most wonderful truths confined in our Upanishads, in our scriptures, in our Puranas must be brought out.

Whether you believe in spirituality or not, for the sake of the national life, you have to get a hold on spirituality and keep to it.

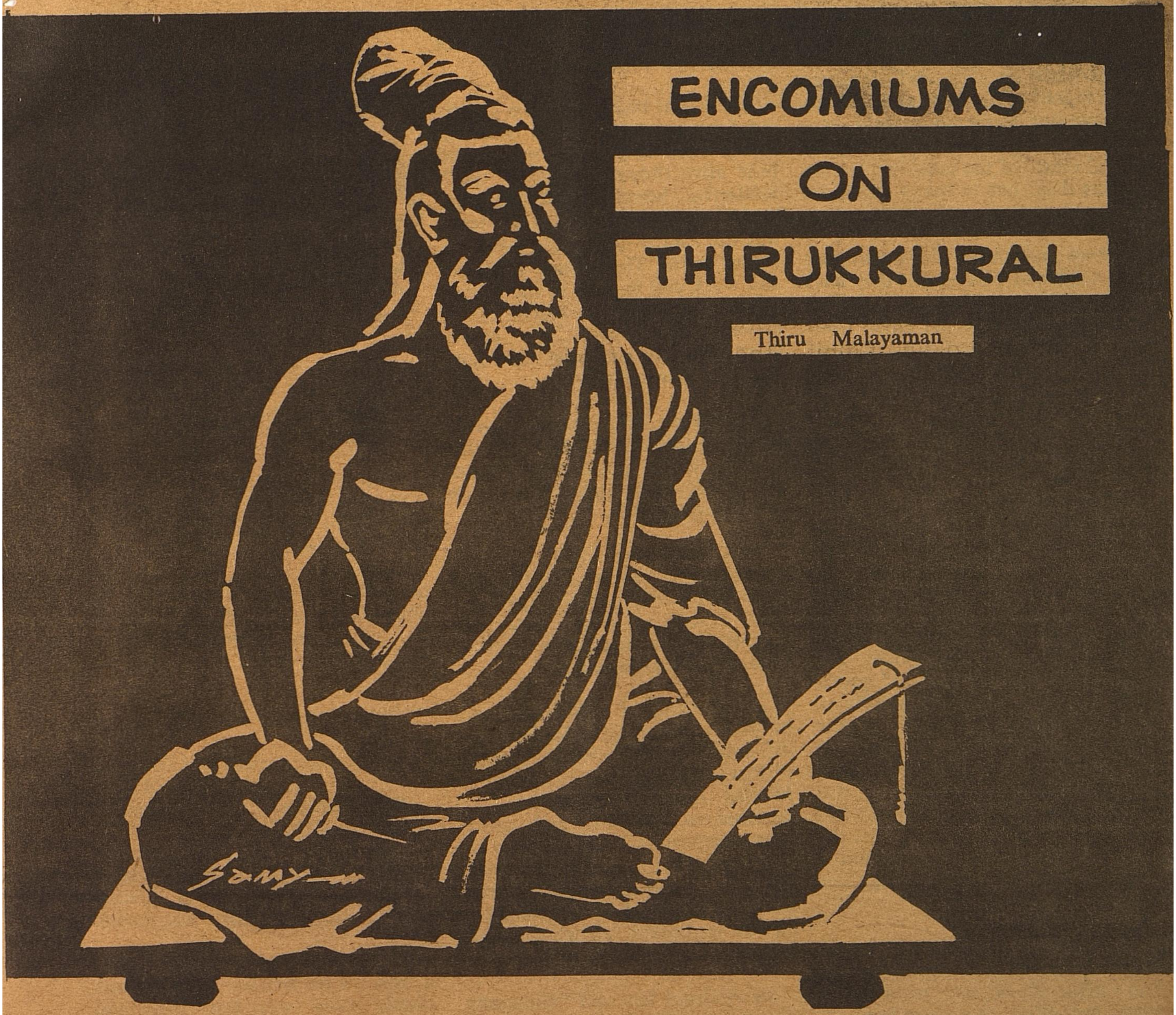
Have faith in yourselves, and stand up on that faith and be strong; that is what we need.

— SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



ENCOMIUMS ON THIRUKKURAL

Thiru Malayaman



The eminent scholar, A.L.Basham, has admired this country, as the "Wonder that was India". This great sub-continent has been the cradle of Civilization and conflux of various cultures. This stocky stem of significant culture has beautiful branches of lofty languages on which laudable fruits of literature have ripened for the benefit of the maturity of the mankind and Thirukkural is one among them.

Thirukkural is a great masterpiece of the language of Tamil which was the adopted tongue of Father Beshi of Italy, Zieganbalg of Germany G. U. Pope of England, Kamil Zvelcbil of Zechoslovakia, Rudin of Russia etc. It consists of 1330 distichs, or poetical aphorisms which are proclaimed by Ariel, to be one of the highest and purest expression of human thought. Prof. Winternitz has remarked that Thiruvalluvar stands above all races, castes, sects and what he teaches is a general human morality and wisdom and that kural is one of the gems of world literature.

Thirukkural is a text book of moral politics and love, i.e. Dharma, Artha and Kama. It reflects the ancient Tamil culture as no other work does. "With sure strokes the Kural draws the ideal of simple ethical humanity. There hardly exists in the literature of the world a collection of maxims in which we find so much lofty wisdom". These were the words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer on Thirukkural.

Manmohan Ghosh of Modern Review has written that the Kural is the finest product of Indian culture and that it is not only a great book of India but of World literature as well.

Why should these erudit scholars, statesman, seers, etc. offer their earnest encomium on Thirukkural? The reasons are multifarious. The Kural is the shortest form of Tamil poetry written in a pithy, concise and aphoristic style, This has been

written nearly 2000 years ago and has withstood the test of time. Numerous Tamil poets have tried to emulate its style and structure, with regard to its metre and thought-content but, so far none could excel him. The couplets which portray the moral ethics of the mankind are not dry as dust, but in many cases, are beautiful as blossoming buds.

There are ethical poets who soar into heights of wisdom,but they have no roots in the soil and their dreams are of no great practical value. There are still others, who are obessed with the demands of realism and practical calculations that their out-look becomes coarse and prosaic without the ennobling touch of idealist vision. But the author of Thirukkural struck a golden mean between these two. Though written twenty centuries ago, many of the poems are easily understandable even to a layman, without the authentic aid of the confident commentators. None could change its structure by altering even a single syllable. Perhaps this book may surpass the longivity of the prodigious pyramid of the far away Egypt or the towering Tajmahal of our beloved motherland, since time has not rusted it till date. Even after such a lengthy passage of time, this book of the metal age has not lost even a bit of its lustre, still suits the generation of the atomic age and is able to guide them in shaping their destiny.

Thiruvalluvar's approach to moral doctrine is marked by thorough knowledge of human psychology, when the other moralists tried to reform the society as a whole, he concentrated on reforming the individual, so that the cumulated effort may project itself for the perfection of a prospering society. This multi-faceted immortal, who advocated the equality of man had his say in almost all the important subjects, such as agriculture, medicine, politics, prohibition etc. in this systematic divisions of 10 couplets in each. Because of his veritable versatility end benevolent universality, all the religions rooted in this country, venture to claim that he belonged to its sect alone. Some of the Kural seems to be the epitome of the great souls of the world. Socrates embraced death by drinking the Hemlock poison though he had every chance of escape from the prison.

The Kural says, "The men aspiring for a name of cultured courtesy, would drink the poison served and bide alive though this they see". Siddartha become Buddha, after he found out the truth that the desire was the root cause of the sufferings of this world. The essence of his life and work can be seen in the Kural. "should ever be one berefit of all desires quite stateless that movement itself it will yeild a state which is changeless".

Jesus has said, "If an enemy smites at one cheek, show him the other". Valluvar goes one step further and advises to do a good turn to him and thus mend him.

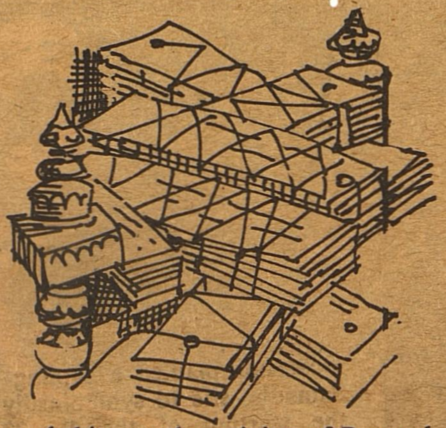
Karl Marx has said, that all men are equal and that all should share the benefits and profits of the mankind, where as Kural says, that sharing the food and saving the other lives are the topmost acts.

The grandeur of Milton, the grace of Dante University of Shakespeare, the sublimity of Aristotle, idealism of Plato, and the moral fervour of Marcus Aurelius are found in a harmonious blending and appropriate proportion in this Bible of the mankind. These are the remarks of the one of the translators of Thirukkural which has been translated in all the important languages of the World.

Sir A.Grant has said "Humanity, Charity and forgiveness of injuries are not described by Aristotle". But these are everywhere inculcated in this work, Thirukkural.

Dharma is one of the important aspects of our society. Giving alms to the poor is said to be foremost act of this Dharma. This Dharma could be practised in 32 different manners. Dharma is termed as virtue and there are quite numbers of definitions offered for it.

Greek Scholar Phythagoras said that living in peace with Kith and Kin was virtue. He said, "Virtue is harmony" If a person has no inclination to do any vice. it is virtue,



and this was the opinion of Bernard Shaw. He said, "Virtue consists not in abstaining from vice but not in desiring it."

"Virtue is action", says D.S. IORADAN "wisdom is knowing what to do next and virtue is doing it". These are his words. J.B. Cabel informs, that virtue has always be conceived as victories resistance to one's vital desire to do this, that or the other. One more definition of virtue is as follows:

"What, what is virtue, but repose of mind?
A pure etherial calm that knows no storm" (J.THOMSON)

But according to Thirukkural, virtue is purity of mind

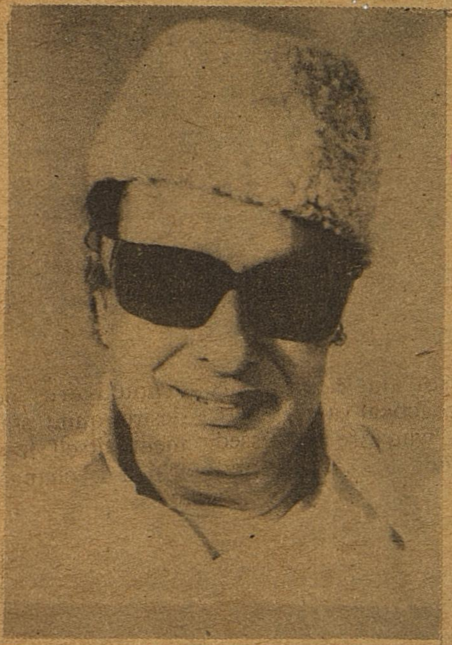
Spotless be thou in mind; this only merits virtue's name
All else mere pomp of idle sound, no real work can claim.

(G.U.POPE's translation). Further it says to be spotless in mind one should avoid envy, lust, anger and bitter word and move in ordered path. This simple specimen may disclose the stature and significance of Thirukkural.

That is why Dr.G.U.Pope, who has translated Thirukkural into English and who has composed a poem on Thiruvalluvar has paid his glowing tribute as follows:

"Sage Valluvar, priest of lowly clan
No tongue repeats, no speech reveals thy name
Yet all things changing, dieth not thy fame
For thou art bard of universal man".

The first death Anniversary of Dr. M. G. R.

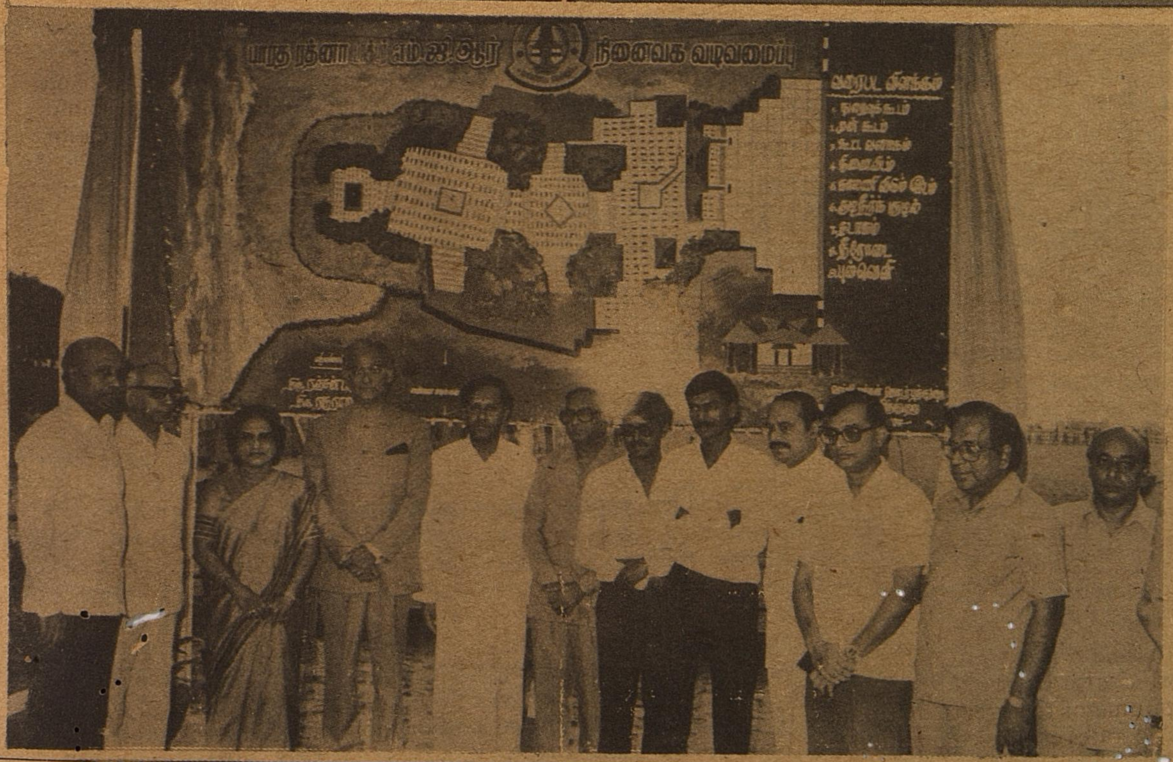


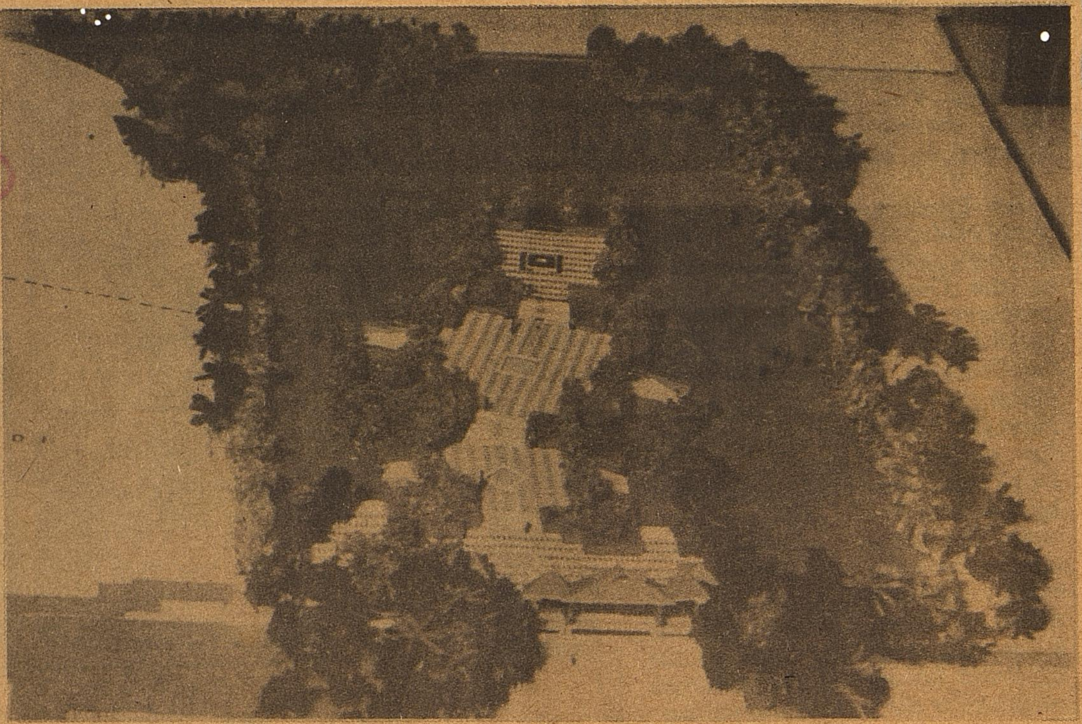
The first death anniversary of late Dr. M. G. R., former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was observed on 24.12.1988.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Mrs. Ackama Alexander, wife of the Governor, Advisors to the Governor and the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu paid floral tribute at the Samadhi on 24.12.1988. The Governor planted a sapling at the Samadhi site to symbolically mark the starting of the Rs. 22 lakh Dr.M.G.R. Memorial Complex work by the State Public Works Department, the design for which was selected through an all India competition held recenly among reputed architects. The Governor unveiled a hoarding at the site depicting the approved lay-out of the proposed complex for the view of the public.

Students belonging to different religions drawn from city schools sang devotional songs on the occasion.

The general public paid their homage at the Samadhi of late Dr.M.G.R from 8.00 A.M. onwards.





MEMORIAL FOR Dr.M.G.R

The Government of Tamil Nadu organised an open Architectural Competition at the National level and invited designs from Architects for the memorial for the late Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. 124 architects registered for the competition and 47 designs were received. The Selection Committee constituted for the purpose of judging the entries met under the Chairmanship of the Special Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Information and Tourism Department on 21.11.1988. The other members of the Board of Assessors are Thiru R.Balla, President of Council of Architecture, New Delhi Thiru Uttam C.Jain, Architect, Bombay, the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings), Madras and the Chief Architect to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Selection Committee assessed each of the design and applied the following criteria in arriving at a final decision.

i) The personality of the person whose memorial is to be built.

ii) The site and its immediate environs;

iii) The relationship of the Memorial to the adjacent Anna Samadhi: and

iv) The impact of the selected design on the total environment.

The competition has been conducted in accordance with regulations of the Indian Institute of Architects and the Council of Architecture.

The selected prize winners are as follows:

FIRST PRIZE Rs. 50,000-	Thiru D.Rajan and Thiru K.Raghuraman of Madras
SECOND PRIZE Rs.30,000/-	Thiru D.Chandermohan, Thiru Sushil Aggarwal and Thiru Sunil Saini of Delhi
CONSOLATION PRIZE Rs.10,000/-each	1. Thiru Nirmal J.Kulkarni & Tmt.Neha Kulkarni of New Delhi and 2. Thiru Abhimanyu Dalal of New Delhi.

The first prize winning architect will be employed for rendering architectural services in developing the design

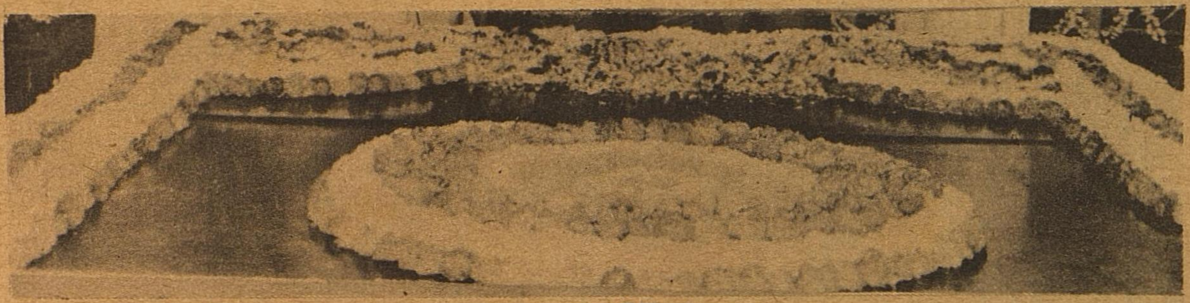
for construction by the Public Works Department. The work was taken up for execution on 24.12.1988, the death anniversary of Dr. M.G.R.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To respect the site and its surroundings.

This seemed to be a direct translation of the spaces of a temple to a memorial without any respect for local conditions. The road was open and the sea cut off by the trees. No attempt was made to relate it withAnna Samadhi.

On trying to open the sea a small opening seemed appropriate as a large opening would make the 'Sense



of Enclosure' one is trying to getwith the trees lost. This small opening was made in such a way that it lets the sunrise in the samadhi on M.G.R.'s birthday and death anniversary. Tilting the courts to this axis helped in keeping the road away.

To modify theDravidian space concept adjusting it to specific problems posed by this memorial design.

To learn from our recent past experiences in memorial mainly not to commit the same mistakes.

In the long history of Dravidian architecture we do not find any instance of a memorial being designed for a ruler or leader. The progression of spaces in aDravidian temple seemed to be very appropriate as shown below.

The plan presents itself in three square courts one above the other with the third court containing the samadhi.

Continuous rows of trees border the boundry cutting off the outside and giving a 'Sense of Place' in the vast open beach.

This formation did not have any relationship with Anna Samadhi. So the plan was distorted further with the axis of middle court joining the Anna Samadhi. The fore court was kept perpendicular of the road and the University buildings.

A continuous channel of water was introduced to maintain the continuity and to lead one to the samadhi and back in the multiple axis plan.

TAMILNADU PLANNING COMMISSION TO BE REORGANISED

Thiru T. V. Antony, I.A.S., the Chairman of the PlanningCommission said that TamilNadu State Planning Commission would soon be reorganised.

The Planning Commission at present has a Chairman, a member secretary and a full time member. According to Thiru T.V.Antony IAS the States annual plan outlay for 1989-90 has already been sent to the Government for approval. A sum of Rs.1457 crore had been allocated for the current year and this amount had already been spent on various works.

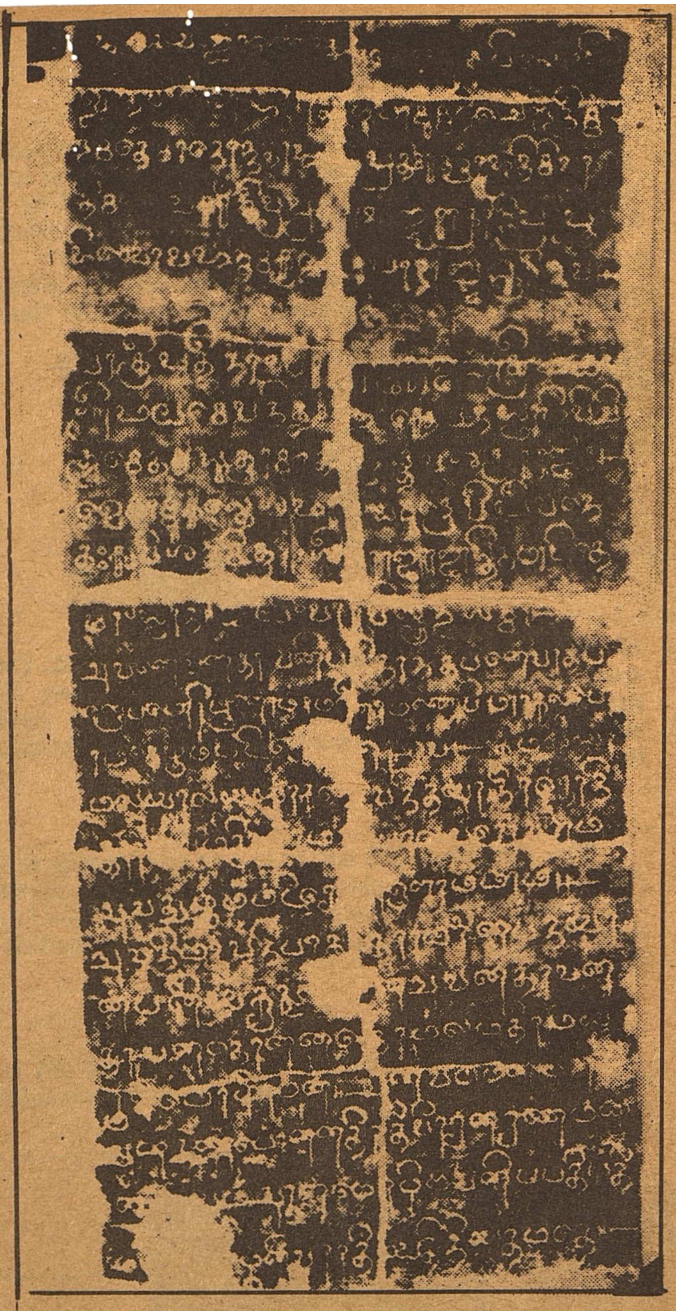
The allocation for the current five year plan for TamilNadu worked out to be Rs. 5750 crore. He also said that the TamilNadu Government is considering a proposal to bring out an "age of marriage register" for monitoring purposes.

Ideal Family :

While inaugurating a seminar on 'Ideal Family 'at Madurai Thiru T. V. Antony IAS, Chairman of the Planning Commission said that monitoring the girls age at the time of marriage was inevitable as it had been proved that teenage marriages led to high infant mortality and so many complications.

Therefore, he said that all efforts should be made to raise the minimum age of marriage of girls from eighteen to twenty, and parents should be taught about the ill effect of early marriage. Stress should also be laid on spacing of children.

Historical Inscription found at Thanjavur



An interesting find of an epigraph engraved on a massive pillar has been brought to the notice of the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology by Thiru C. Santhalingam, Archaeological officer of this Department.

While digging for foundation for building a house at Srinivasapuram, a suburb of Thanjavur, a massive stone pillar came across bearing inscriptions. Without knowing the importance of that inscription, the owner of the building broke the pillar into pieces and began to remove them one by one. Sensing the damage done to the historical find, the 'Hindu' Correspondent of Thanjavur informed the Officers of this department at Thanjavur. In turn the Archaeologieal officer, Thanjavur brought this to the notice of Thiru N.Kasinathan, Director of Archaeology, incharge. The Director had directed his officer to bring all the stone pieces to Rajarajan Museum, Thanjavur and take estampage of the inscriptions.

It is found that three inscriptions are engraved eulogising the greatness of the Chola Emperor Rajaraja I. The inscriptions are written in Sanskrit language and in Tamil characters. This seems to be the unique find of the sanskrit inscription in Tamil characters. Usually the sanskrit inscriptions are found written in Grantha characters. Hence this find becomes an interesting land mark, in the field of epigraphy and throwing fresh light on the system of writing and on the greatness of Rajarajan who built the Great temple at Thanjavur.

Considering the massiveness of the pillar, it seems that this pillar may have been belonged to Rajaraja Temple itself. While carrying out renovation in later periods this pillar may have been brought to this area or there must have been a big mandapa or a building built of this kind of pillars in this area.

To find out the true nature of this pillar, this department has decided to carryout a trial excavation in the findspot, for which necessary sanction order is being expected from the Archaeological survey of India.

NEED OF THE HOUR

Thiru P.V. MENON
Secretary General,
Central Governing Council,
Green Cross Society, Madras.

Need of the hour is to evolve methods of pollution control, conservation cf energy, conservation of water, soil and metallic minerals and at the same time increasing the carrying capacity of the earth with reference to the mankind. The following goals would need a global effort, a global approach, a global legislation and a global organisation.

The world's future demands required extensive and intensive utilisation and management of environments. Some feasible methods and approaches include:

(1) Intensification of afforestation and reforestation rates to as many times as possible.

(2) Further improving the scientific growth of trees through genetic breeding.

(3) Avoiding wasteful cutting and encourage sustained-yield harvesting.

(4) Breeding for disease and best resistant varieties of forest trees.

Control of diseases of important trees through judicious application of fungicides and pesticides.

The man has just started realising the dimensions of the resources problem and environmental pollution when situations have become most detrimental even threatening the very existence of mankind. What is urgently needed is to act for minimising the indiscriminate use and abuse of the environment, to control the population size to the manageable limits and to evolve strategies for best possible use of land and sea resources on a short and long term basis.

Natural environment has also been modified in a manner that has resulted in the total extinction or disappearance of natural scavengers or decomposers, which in turn has affected the self-cleansing property of the enviromnent and has further accentuated the severity of man made environmental pollution. Ecology is the science of inter-relationships between environment and the living community including man. Environments and biotic communities are interacting complementary units. Both economic development plans and the policies for conservation of nature aim at improving the quality of human life. Economic development plans mainly consider material aspect of quality of life. Whereas the policies for conservation of nature cover material, ecological and aesthetic aspects of life. The gains of economic activities are realised soon; those of conservation plans are realised slowly and over a long span of time.

Conservation approach considers the development activities of mankind in relation to their impact on natural biota, climatic factors, water and soil resources, the econo-

mic approach takes into account, methods which yield qucikly. Both economic progress as well as nature's conservation share the common goal of increasing human happiness.

Natural conservation approch is preferable mainly because it is scientifically sound and rational and has prospects for long term future of mankind.

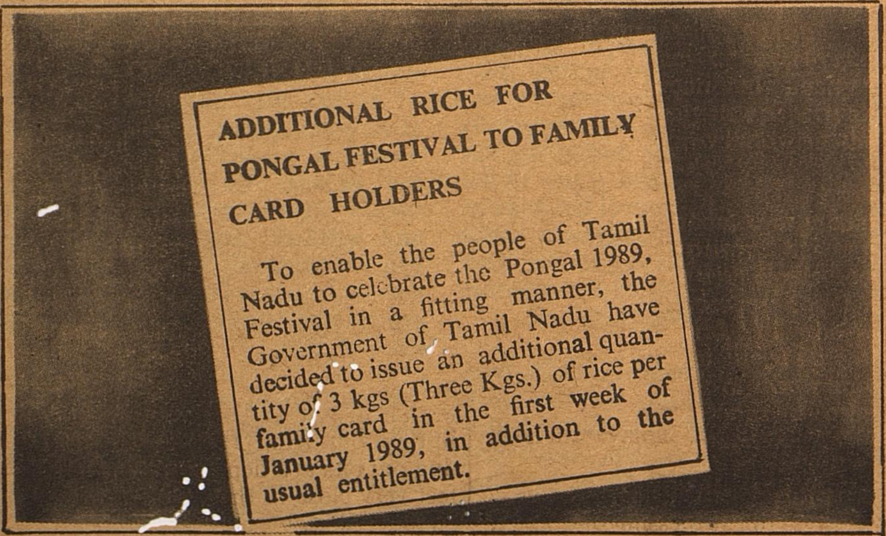
It is very ideal welcome gesture if the engineers, foresters, agronomists, range managers, wild life specialists, landscape architects, economists, ecologists and the dedicated social workers of organisations like Green Cross Society are made to effectively participate in any development planning of a city or industry which keep in view the basic ecological principles that govern the functioning and stability of ecosystems.

Pollution being generally an undesirable and excessive addition of certain substances to water, air and soil which adversely alter the natural quality of environment, which also contain biota including buildings, landscapes, oceans, parks, open spaces, vehicles and noises. Environment often becomes complex and comprehensive affected by all our activities, it is desirable to have a Tree Welfare Board and a Board for sustenance of environment and ecological balance required to be set up by each State Government consisting of representatives of appropriate organisations.

The recent upsurge of interest and growing conern for the quality of our environment has strengthened the concept of environmental monitoring which requires regular, periodcal measurements of environmental and ecological characteristics followed by timely assessment and interpretation of the data thus obtained. Reliable monitoring of data are quite essential to identify pollution problems, to prescribe environmental quality standards, to plan pollution strategies and to provide an early warning system for unforeseen pollution problems.

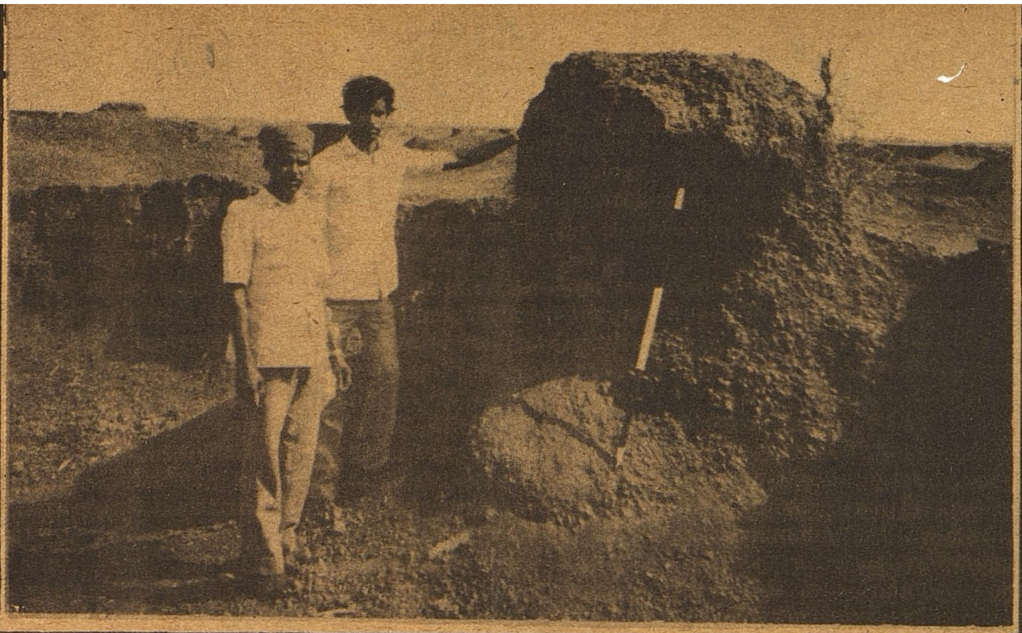
It needs no emphasis that air pollution is a serious problem for those living in big, confested industrilised cities like ours with heavy vehicles traffic. In urban areas, major environmental pollution problems include noxious fumes, dust, grit, errosive gases, exeessive noise, smoke, offensive odours arising mainly from factories processing animal wastes and food residues. In fact the automobile is often considered as the greatest polluter of the atmosphere and is responsible for about 75 per cent of the noise and about 80 per cent of air pollution in the big cities.

In order to eliminate the above said problems posed to the living communities, it is suggested to have concerted efforts at various levels, by setting up Tree Welfare and Environment Management Board with their representatives from each Taluk, wards of cities of the country with required authority and facilities vested with them.



ADDITIONAL RICE FOR PONGAL FESTIVAL TO FAMILY CARD HOLDERS

To enable the people of Tamil Nadu to celebrate the Pongal 1989, Festival in a fitting manner, the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to issue an additional quantity of 3 kgs (Three Kgs.) of rice per family card in the first week of January 1989, in addition to the usual entitlement.



The Prehistoric site at Chengalpattu District

Dr. N. Devasahayam,
Curator, Anthropology Section
Government Museum, Madras.

Of all the districts in Tamil Nadu, it was Chengalpattu District which yielded numerous stone implements left over by the palaeolithic man. In fact it was only from this District that the first palaeolithic tool (the handaxe) in India was discovered by the pioneer prehistorian Robert Bruce Foote on 30th May 1863 at a ballast pit on the brigade ground at Pallavaram, closer to the Madras-Trichy trunk road on one side and nearer to Meenambakkam on the other side. Subsequently after the discovery of the first cleaver tool on 28th September 1863 by Robert Foote and Mr. W. King at Attirampakkam nullah (a tributary of the Coretelair river) near Poondi Satyamurti dam, several adjacent sites on the South and North of Cortelair river, such as Walajabad, Sriperumbadur, Red Hills, Thirumullaivoil, Puttur, Parandur, Panjur, Oorathur, Manjalkaranai, Erumaivettipalayam, Nelway etc. were discovered.

Of all these sites, the sites north and north east of Red Hills lake are considered quite interesting in that the whole area is mostly elevated laterite rock (comparable to capper hills of Cuddalore) and it lies between Satyavedu and Alicoor hills. Thus while geologically, the Red Hills area is considered as a compact laterite rock, the Attrampakkam and Pallavaram sites are of laterite conglomerate and laterite gravel, respectively. The Red Hills and adjacent areas were surveyed by Dr. Cornish, Frazer and Foote in 1864 and Foote mentions that he himself chiselled out several well-shaped and well-preserved implements from the hard glazed surfaced laterite rock of Red Hills.

The lakes at Red Hills and Sholavaram are closer to each other and these lakes are popular and familiar to Madras citizens since they supply the bulk of drinking water daily to Madras city. Sholavaram is still an important place since the motar race is held here annually on the abandoned air strip, possibly built by the British during the Second World War. The proximal end of the air strip starts very near the Red Hills—Trivellore trunk road on an elevation while the distal end of the air strip runs and ends up in a sloping way near the interior of Sholavaram lake.

Three months back, a sports—lover who after witnessing the annual motor race at Sholavaram had brought two pieces of stones to the Museum, collected from the vicinity of the air-strip wanted to findout whether they are genuine man-made tools or mere nature-made stone pieces. Of the suspected stone tools, surprisingly one on closer examination, happened to be a genuine flake tool and this accelerated our exploratory field trip to the Sholavaram air strip area.

Generally the abodes of prehistoricmen are river terraces, rock-shelters and caves but the Sholavaram site is quite contrary to this. Surprisingly, the site is situated by the side of the cemented air strip. Here one could see many dug out pits of a man's height, possibly from where red soil for construction purposes would have been removed, and incidently in doing this the lorry workers had disturbed many sarcophagai pottery coffins, and incidently most of them were broken into bits and scattered all over the area. Apart from reckless and rough digging, vandalism could have taken over many compact sarcophagai. Further in this megalithic burial, a few sarcophagai are still jutting out from the walls of the dug out pits at a depth of one to two feet very close to the surface. From an overall inspection of these pits,

Stone Hand Axes and Scrapers collected at Sholavaram

one could certainly come to the conclusion that this whole area could have been a grave-yard or a cemetary for the Iron Age people or Megalithic builders, even though there is not a single stone circle or dolmen sighted anywhere nearby.

Yet another peculiarity of this site is that apart from the occurrences of the remains of Megalithic people, one could find in the pits, here and there at randam, the flake and core tools, some unfinished in their structure. Thus a dozen such palaeolithic tools (of Attrampakkam Madrasian type) have been collected from here. This is a rare combination of both Megalithic burials with stone tooks, at the same site but at different layers.

The conjuncture may be that prior to the establishment of the airstrip the whole area would have been a shrub jungle, unlevelled but elevated, where the early inhabitants, say the Palaeolithic man, settled down and started working on tools with plenty of watei available at the nearby tank or river. Subsequently when the Megalithic builders occupied the area, they would have buried their dead in this barren land at a depth of one to two feet from the surface. Therefore two layers have been formed just one above the other, the bottom being that of the earliest and oldest of Palaeolithic people, while the upper layer (closer to the surface) being that of the recent and of the Megalithic people.

This stratigraphical layout seems to be correct, with the discovery of stone tools of Palaeolithic man at a depth of 8 to 10 feet from the surface in the pits, while the sarcophagai were seen at two feet depth from the surface. Further this site reveals two coinciding factors, in that the first hand-axe palaeolith was discovered by Foote in 1863 at Pallavaram in a pit in the military ground, adjacent to Madras-Trichy trunk road and the Meenambakkam airport, similar to that of Sholavaram pit and adjacent military airstrip. Further Pallavaram has yielded sarcophagai burials (separate site) apart from yielding palaeoliths like that of Sholavaram site. Therefore it may be inferred that the famous Madrasian Palaeolithic Industry (which had its principal centre at Attrampakkam) could have been extended and spread over even up to Pallavaram via Red-Hills/Sholavaram with the same cultural sequences. Then it is no doubt that the Megalithic builders were the immediate inhabitants after the Palaeolithic people across this area long back. However there is still much to be done—more exploration and field trips to this site.

The first cleaver (stone tool) collected by Foote in 1863 at Attirampakkam

Vice-Chancellor's Conference

A One-day Conference of Vice-Chancellors was held at the Secretariat on 19.12.88 to discuss various problems concerning the Universities. The Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities including the Vice-Chancellors of Gandhigram and Avinasilingam deemed Universities were present. The Madurai Kamaraj University was represented by Dr.K.I.Vasu, Director, Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, who is the Chairman of the Syndicate Sub-Committee of the University looking into the affairs of the University in the absence of Vice-Chancellor. Dr. A. Padmanabhan, I.A.S., Adviser to the Governor, Thiru M. M. Rajendran, I.A.S; the Chief Secretary, Dr. H. B. N. Shetty, Special Commissioner & Secretary, Education and Secretaries in the Departments of Agriculture, Health, Electronics & Science and Technology were present.

Governor's concern over academic standard

Inaugurating the Conference, His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr.P.C.Alexander expressed his concern at the steady deterioration in academiic standards in certain Universities and Colleges which is reflected in the poor performance of the students from the State not only in the examinations for All India Services but also for UGC and CSIR Fellowships. He pointed out that the number of research papers published in the international journals has not kept pace with the expansion in the number of University teachers and researchers. He also drew the attention of the Vice-Chancellors to the large percentage of failures in B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com., courses. The large percentage of failure of men students in these courses was very disconcerting, he pointed out. In the Madras University, for example, the percentage of pass of men students in B.A., B.Sc., courses was 27 and 25% respectively and that for women 58 and 57%. He called upon the Vice-Chancellors to investigate the reasons for this state of affairs.

PONGAL GIFT FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Tamilnadu Government has sanctioned a lumpsum ex-gratia payment of Rs. 400 as 'Pongal' gift for its employees.

All regular and temporary employees of local bodies and aided educational institutions would also receive this benefit.

The ex-gratia payment will apply also to all employyees governed by the University Grants Commission scales of pay, employees paid from contingencies at fixed monthly rates, non-provincialised work charged establishment employees on consolidated pay and empoyees on fixed monthly remuneration including the employees in Noon-meal scheme and village establishments and also to the employees who had put in a continuous service of over one year and getting their pay based on daily rates.

This amount will be paid in the first week of January 1989 and the financial commitment to the Government will be of the order of Rs. 43 crores.

Working of the Educational system

In the course of his address, the Governor outlined the various important measures taken in the last ten months to improve the working of the educational system in the State. He pointed out that the Heads of Departments have now been given full powers regarding recruitment, posting and transfers of teachers at appropriate levels. A large number of teachers had remained on temporary or contract basis for several years. Orders have been issued regularising the services of 1,268 teachers in High Schools, 355 Post-Graduate teachers and 611 Assistant Professors. Some of these teachers have been continuing on temporary basis from 1978. The Governor added that the Teachers Recruitment Board has already completed the selection of 988 teachers for recruitment. Posts of Assistant Head Masters have been created in schools with a strength above 750. Instructions have been issued that publication of results of examinations for Under-Graduate courses should be made by 15th June and of Post-Graduate courses by 25th June every year without delay. He added that the entrance examinations to professional courses will be conducted promptly in mid-June. The most important measure taken during this period is the introduction of UGC scales of pay for College and University Teachers.

Governor's call to charities

The Governor was of the opinion that the most serious problem in educational administration in the State is paucity of funds. Even though Rs. 690 crores have been provided for the current year's budget, as against Rs. 238 crores in 1980-81, the share of education is still only about 20% of the total budget. The commitment taken by the State to meet the entire salary in aided institutions and 4% of the salary bill as maintenance grant has proved to be a major burden on the State's budget. He called upon the private foundations, charities and individuals to come forward with more liberal support to education as government resources are already over-stretched. As it is, only Rs. 78 crores out of the provision of Rs. 690 crores are available for Plan schemes. The rest are for non-plan schemes which means mainly the salaries of teachers and staff.

Role of the Universities

The Governor also called upon the Vice-Chancellors to improve the interaction of the Universities with Industries and also for greater involvement of the Universities in development programmes within their region particularly those relating to rural development, housing, water supply, sanitation and hygiene. The Universities should not content themselves by being the mere institutions for conducting examinations. They should, instead, take greater interest in the socio-economic development of the people of the region in which they operate.

Some of the subjects that came up for detailed discussion included performance appraisal of degree and post-graduate students, restructuring of courses and syllabi, framing of guidelines for entering into contract with foreign Universities and agencies and conferment of autonomous status to departments. The conference also critically reviewed the progress in recruiting SC/ST candidates as members of the faculty. Before the proceedings started, the Conference passed a Condolence Resolution on the sad and untimely demise of Dr.S.Krishnaswamy, the Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University who passed away recently and observed a minute's silence to mourn his death.

Government Holidays

The Government direct that all the offices under the control of the Government of Tamil Nadu be closed on (a) the days specified in the notification appended to this order except Friday the 30th June 1989. (b) All Saturdays in the Year 1989 and (c) Tuesday the 18th April 1989 on Account of Mahaveer Jayanthi.

The following days shall be Public Holidays during the year 1989.

Sunday, the 1st January 1989— **New Year's Day**

Saturday, the 14th January 1989— **Pongal**

Sunday, the 15th January 1989 Thiruvalluvar Day

Monday, the 16th January 1989 Uzhavar Thirunal

Thursday, the 26th January 1989— RepublicDay

Friday, the 24th March 1989 Good Friday

Thursday, the 6th April 1989— Telugu New Year's Day

Friday, the 14th April 1989— Tamil New Year'sDay

Monday, the 1st May 1989—Mayday

Sunday, the 7th May 1989— Ramzan

Friday, the 30th June 1989— Half Yearly Closing of Bank Accounts

Friday, the 14th July 1989—Bakrid

Sunday, the 13th August 1989— Muharram

Tuesday, the 15th August 1989— IndependenceDay

Monday, the 4th September 1989— VinayakarChathurthi

Monday, the 2nd October 1989— Gandhi Jayanthi

Monday, the 9th October 1989— AyudhaPooja

Tuesday, the 10th October 1989— Ayudha Pooja

Friday, the 13th October 1989— Meelad-Un-Nabi

Saturday, the 28th October 1989— **Deepavali**

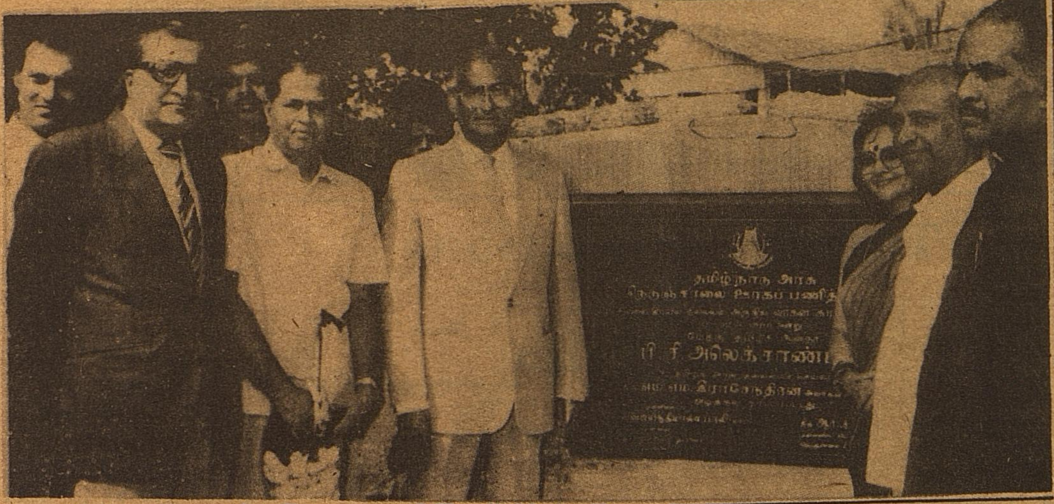
Monday, the 25th December 1989— **Christmas**

Sunday, the 31st December 1989— Annual Closing of Bank Accounts.

Though New Year's Day 1st January ,1989 (Sunday). Pongal 14th January 1989 (Saturday) Thiruvalluvar Day 15th January 1989(Sunday) Ramzan 7th May 1989 (Sunday), Muharrum 13th August 1989 (Sunday), Deepavali 28th October 1989(Saturday), Annual Closing of Bank Accounts 31st December 1989 (Sunday) fall either on Saturday or Sunday, they have been indicated in the above list for easy reference.

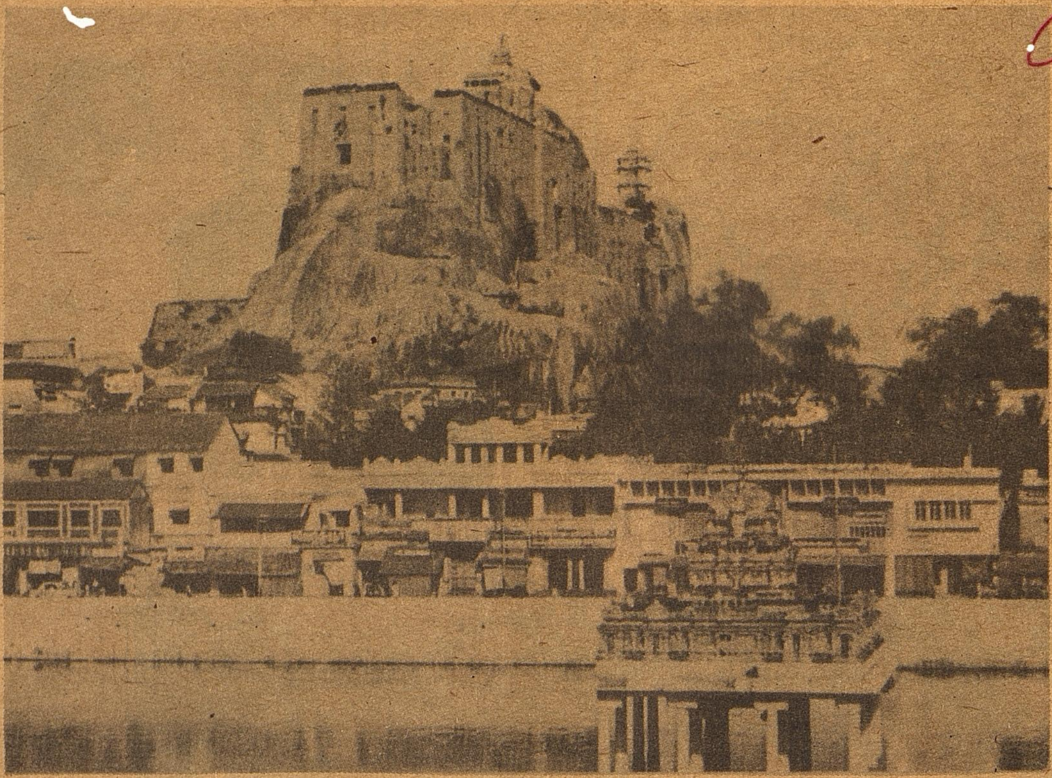
NEWS IN PICTURES

Thiru Mohammed Abdul Ali was sworn in as Sheriff of Madras by His Excellency Dr. P.C.Alexander the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 21.12.'88 at Raj Bhavan.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Dr. P.C.Alexander laid the foundation stone for a subway near St. Thomas Mount Railway Station on 10.12.'88 under the presidentship of Thiru M. M. Rajendran, IAS., the Chief Secretary to Government.

Thiru Paran A.D. Vairan, Belgium Ambassador called on Thiru M.M.Rajendran, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government at Secretrariat, Madras on 16.12.88.



Tourist Attractions in Tamil Nadu

The South is a way of life. The South is a land where the people fold their hands in 'namaskaram'. Tamil-Nadu, the land of the Tamils is colourful, exuberant, always friendly finding its ultimate expression in Stone, in Music and in religion.

Tourism to-day is widely acclaimed as an important international industry. It earns the much needed foreign exchange and generates economic activity. The contribution of tourism is indeed very vital for international peace and amity. Domestic tourism on the other hand brings in national unity and integration, in addition to creating employment opportunities and advancement of backward areas.

In the statistical analysis of foreign tourist arrivals made by the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, twenty top tourist destinations in the country have been indentified. These include 1. Madras, 2. Tiruchirappalli, 3. Rameswaram and 4. Madurai. In fact, Tamil Nadu is the only State to have as many as four major destinations for foreign tourists. This indicates the rich tourism potential of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has age old temples, monuments, beaches, water falls, and hill stations.

Tamil Nadu is witnessing a steady increase in tourist arrivals, both domestic and foreign during the last few years. The State tourism development plans are therefore, prepared to provide the required infrastructural facilities for the tourists besides creation of new attractions and conservation and preservation of existing ones. The development plans are therefore, drawn up in an integrated manner for all round development of tourism industry in the State.

Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu has always been the 'gateway to South India''. It possesses a beautiful beach, a good museum and attracting buildings .Adyar, on the outskirts of Madras is the headquarters of the Theosophical Society. The Kalakshetra, in the same town is a well known institution for Music, Dance and Drama.

First among the places to visit in Madras is Fort St. George, where the most of Madras history was written. The buildings in the Fort house the Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly .A church in the Secretariat was consecreated in the year 1680 and it is believed to be the oldest Anglican Church in the East. There is another famous Church called the Santhome Cathedral, said to be the last resting place of St. Thomas, the Apostle, who is supposed to have brought Chirstianity to the South India barely a few years after the crucification. The National Art Gallery contains a splendid collection of ancient bronzes. Of architectural interest is the "Kapaleeswarar Temple" with its massive and intricately carved gopuram towering into sky. "Parthasarathy Temple" is an 8th century artistic temple dedicated to Lord Krishna.

There are three beaches. Marina which is also the city's sea-front and the Elliots and Ennore beaches 11km and 18 km away respectively.

No visit to Madras is complete without a trip to the ancient sea Port of Mamallapuram, also known as Mahabalipuram a beach resort with a history. It was once a seventh Century sea port built by an emperor of the Pallava dynasty. The best known landmark here is the "Shore Temple", a delicately carved survivor of the seven the rest having been slowly eroded and carried off by the sea. Remnants of an ancient pier can still be seen here, from where ships once ventured to the ports of Java and Bali.

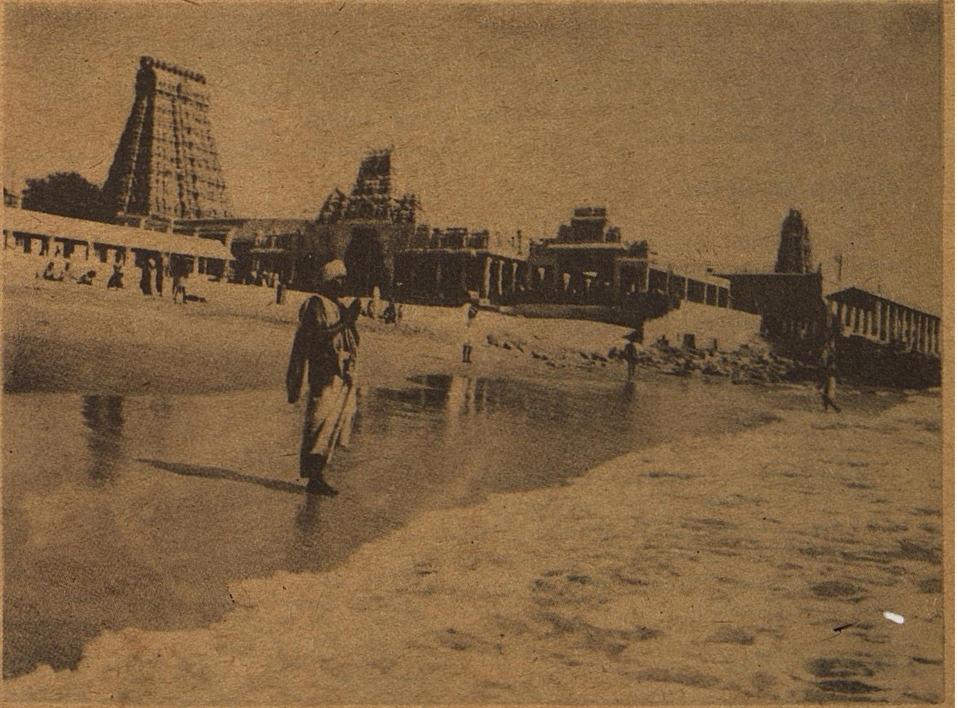
Kancheepuram was successively the Capital of the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Rayas of Vijayanagar.

Temple Towns

Madurai is one of the most ancient cities with a history dating back to the 6th century B. C. A landmark of the town is the"Meenakshi temple' with its Hall of the Thousand Pillars. Rameswaram, Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli are the other historical towns. Rameswaram contains one of India's most venerated temples, perhaps the finest example of South Indian Architecture. Thanja vur has the famous Brihadeswara temple. It is better known as the cultural centre of the Kaveri Delta, having been the capital of the great Chola empire that flourished between the 10th and 14th centuries. Tiruchirappalli is known for the temple city of Srirangam.

The other Tamil Nadu fantasies are the Sunrise and sunset that occur off the coast of Kanyakumari, the land's end of India. Other facets of Tamil Nadu are its wild life-besides at the Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary and theVedanthangal Bird Sanctuary-the hill resorts-the Nilgiris or Blue Mountains, Ootacamund, Coonoor, Kodaikanal, Kotagiri. These lovely hill stations are pleasant health resorts.

The Thirumalai Nayak Palace, Madurai



IMPORTANT PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

KANCHEEPURAM

Kancheepuram is known as one of India's Seven Sacred Cities. From the 6th to 8th century it was famous as the Capital of the Pallava kings. Later it became the Capital of the Cholas and the Vijayanagar kings.

Adi Sankaracharya, one of the famous saints of India eatablished his religious seat (Kamakoti Peetam) here.

Kanchi has magnificent temples of unique architectural beauty, bearing eloquent testimony to its glorious Dravidian heritage. In Kancheepuram, there are nearly 200 temples- the Vaikunta Perumal Temple. The Ekambareswarar temple, the Varadaraja temple, the Kailasanathar temple, the Kamakshi temple, and the Sakkiswara temple are some that provide an excellent opportunity for those who seek to study the evolution of temple architectue in

Silver Cascade, Kodaikanal

South India. Kanchi is also a well-known centre of the finest silk sarees made in the country. Thousands of families of weavers ply their looms in and around Kanchi.

CHIDAMBARAM

The famous Nataraja (Siva as a cosmic dancer) temple at Chidambaram is noted for its golden roof over the sanctum sanctorium. Bharata Natyam dance poses are depicted in sculpture in this temple.

SRIRANGAM

Srirangam is a picturesque island in the River Kaveri. There is a temple of Lord Vishnu, built around the 13th and 14th centuries. A pilgrimage spot, its annual festival is held during Vaikunta Ekadasi.

POOMPUHAR

Although Poompuhar is now only a small village on the sea-shore of the Bay of Bengal, it was once a great seaport of the Cholas, having contact with the FarEast, Greece and Rome, 'Silapathikaram' the Story of the Anklet, one of the greatest Tamil classics gives a vivid account of this port city of the Cholas. An art gallery depicting scenes from 'Silapathikaram' affords the viewer a historic insight into this once-great seaport.

VIRALIMALAI

Viralimalai, close to Tiruchirappalli, has a famous fifteenth century temple of Lord Subramanya -a temple of great cultural and historical significance. Peacocks abound here.

VAIGAI DAM

Sixty seven kms, from Madurai on the way to the Periyar Game Sanctuary, is the beautiful Vaigai Dam. There is a lovely garden with all kinds of exotic flowers and plants at the dam site.

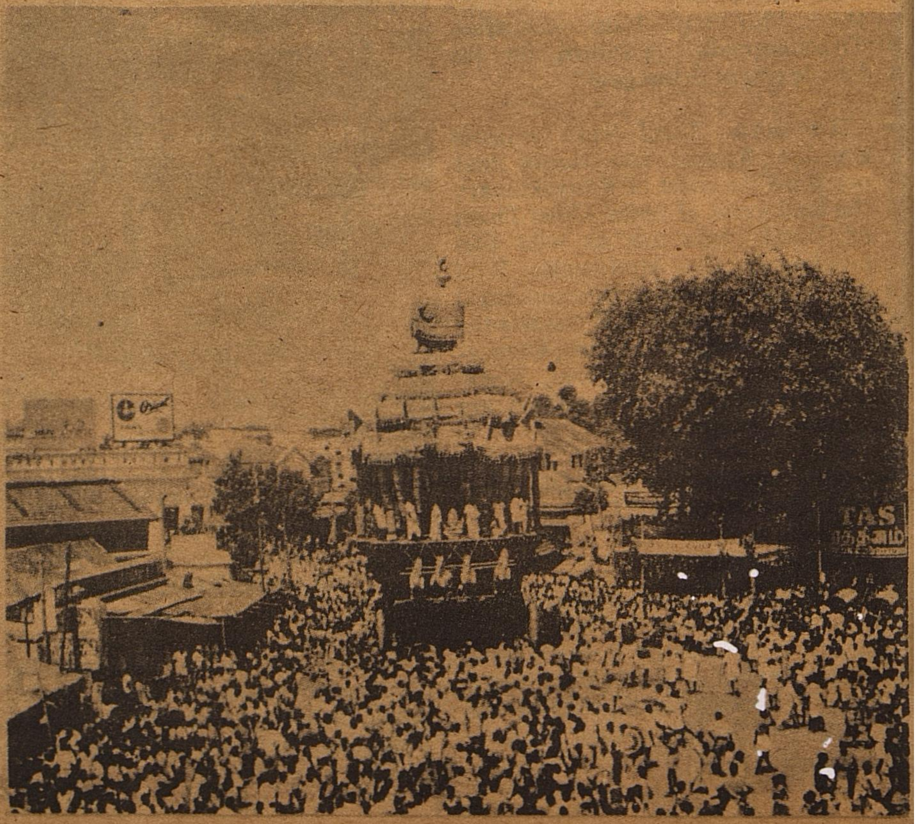
THIRUCHENDUR

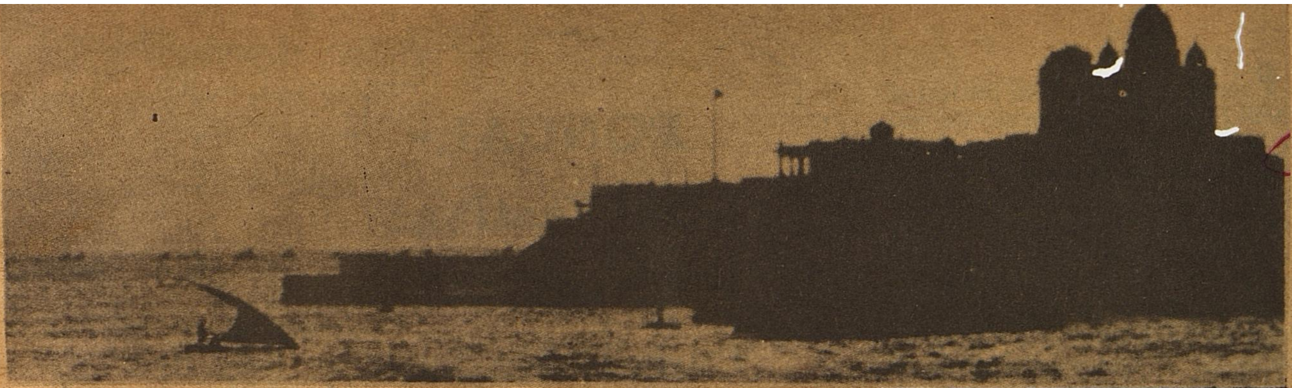
Situated on the shore, about 100 kms. north of Kanyakumari, is the famous temple of Thiruchendur, dedicated to Lord Subramanya. The beautiful Shanmuga Vilasam in front of the temple, overlooking the mighty ocean, is an inspiring sight. Tradition has it that Lord Subramanya, after his victory over Soorapadman came here and offered worship toSiva.

COIMBATORE

Coimbatore, known as the Manchester of South India, is a well-

The Car Festival





Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanniyakumari.

located city, with a charm of its own. A popular tourist spot in Coimbatore District is Bhavani Sagar, one of the largest multi-purpose dams in the world. The reservoir of the dam is a lovely spot and offers tourist bathing and fishing. The nearby Siva temple at Perur and the Murugan temple at Marudhamalai are worth visiting.

YERCAUD:

Yercaud is a quiet and restful hill resort in the Salem District. A pleasant and cool climate, beautiful vistas and panoramic views, make Yercaud one of nature's most lovely spots. Lady's Seat, Killiyur Falls, Bear's Cave, Cauvery Peak, Pagoda Point, the Anna Park, the Lake, the dark green coffee plantations, exotic flowers and succulent fruits of all varieties, the wooded slopes and murmuring rivulets-these are some of Yercaud's attractions.

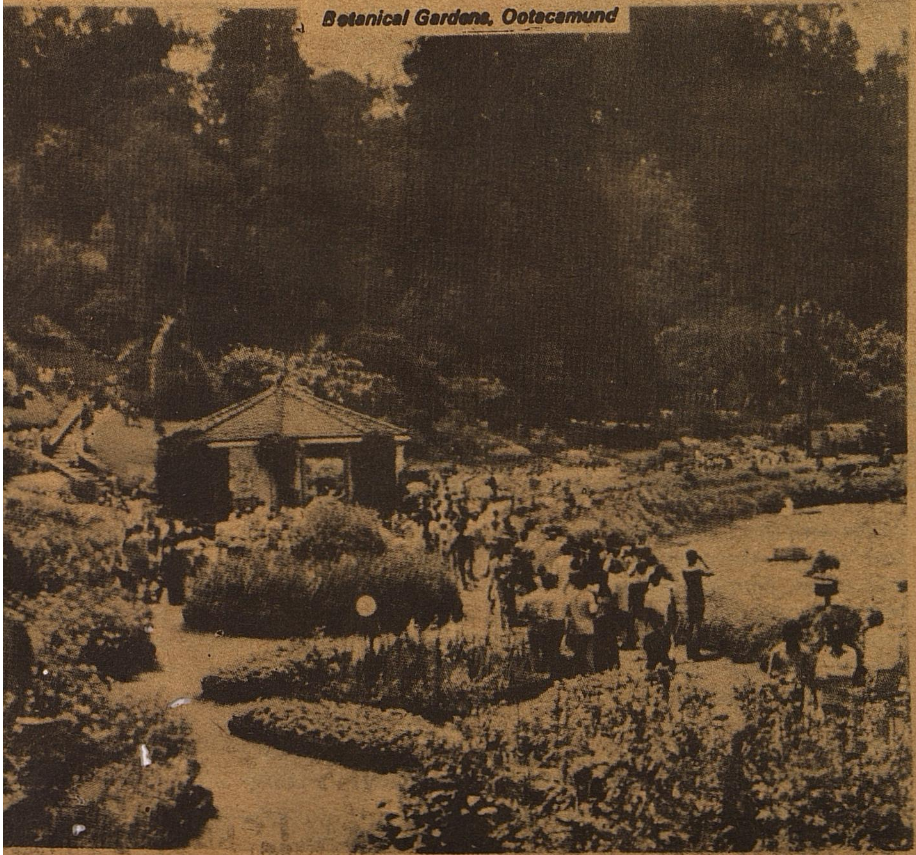
VELANKANNI

About 150kms, from Thanjavur is Velankanni, the famous Catholic pilgrim centre. The church here, dedicated to "Our Lady of Health", draws millions of pilgrims including Hindus and Muslims. The annual Festival of Velankanni is celebrated with great piety and fervour.

NAGORE:

Nagore, 12 kms, north of Velankanni, is a famous Muslim pilgrim centre. The Nagore Darga (Muslim shrine) is visited by people of all religious faiths.

Botanical Gardens, Ootacamund



KANNIYAKUMARI

At Kanniyakumari ,India's land's end the waters of three oceans the Indian ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal comingle. The glory of Kanniyakumari is its sunset-the only place in India where one can enjoy the unique spectacle of sunset and moonrise simultaneously on full-moon day.

Goddess Kanniyakumari

A temple dedicated to Virgin Goddess Kanniyakumari, who stands in eternal vigil protecting the country marks the landscape of Kanniyakumari.

Vivekananda Memorial

Two rocks projecting out of the ocean, south-east of Kanniyakumari Temple provide an ideal vantage view of the land's end. On one of these rocks where Swami Vivekananda went into long and deep meditation. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial, was built in 1970, a blend of all architectural styles in India.

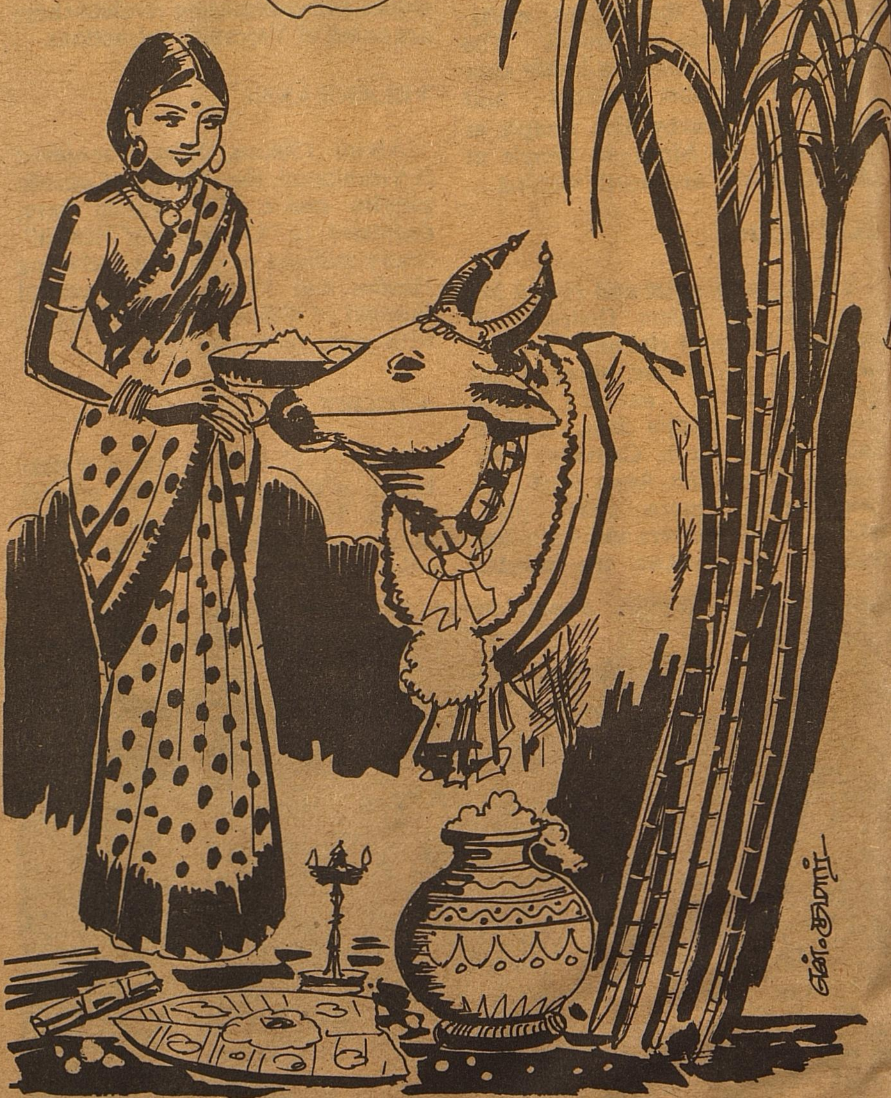
HOGENAKAL FALLS:

Hogenakal, which means 'Smoking Rock' got the name because of the smoke-like appearance created by the spray of the plunging waters of Kaveri at this spot. The falls, the rugged scenery and the enchanting natural attractions have made it an ideal holiday spot. It is 65 kms. from Salem.

COURTALLAM

About 100 kms, south of Madurai is Courtallam Falls, known as the 'Spa' of the South. A shower in the cascading waters is a great experience The water are said to have great recuperative properties. The Couralllam Falls will captivate the heart of any visitor. The season here is between June and September.

PONGAL- The Festival of Tamil Nadu.



Pongal is the national festival of Tamil Nadu. It is a three day harvest festival. It is one of the most colourful events in South India. It is called Sankaranti in Karnataka. In 'Andhra Pradesh' every household displays its collection of dolls for three days. In Tamil Nadu, it is called 'Pongal' which is celebrated for four days commencing from the last day of Margazhi. Pongal is a festival of thanks giving when the peasant worships the Sun, the Earth and the Cattle for all their bounties. On the first day of the festival called Bhogi' there will be feasting and merry making. On the second day which is Pongal, the sun 'God' is worshipped. Sugarcane and turmeric, sheaves of paddy and newly prepared Jaggery, vegetables and dhals are all devotedly offered and all the members of the family join together in the worship. On the third day "Mattu Pongal" the cow is worshipped. The farmers paint the horns of their bulls and cows in rich colours and cover the horns with shining metal caps and decorates them with gay coloured beads and the bells. The farmers feed them with Pongal, a sweet preparation of rice. The whole family sit together and eat Pongal and thus they celebrate the joy of life. The cows and bulls which are thus so gaily decorated are led out in procession in the streets in the evening to the beat of drums, pipe horns and music.

Jalli Kattu

In Madurai and Ramanathapuram, a kind of bull fight, called the "JALLI KATTU" isheld every year. Bundles of currency notes are tied to the horns of ferrocious bulls and unarmed young men try to wrest the bundles. In those days rich mirasudars would rear bulls especially for this occasion, and whoever tames the bull would get the hand of his daughter. This practice is given up now. Rice made into coloured balls are left in open terraces and courtyards for the birds.

Kaanum Pongal

On the last day, "Kaanum Pongal" men, women and children of all ages dressed in colourful clothes visit the elders to pay their regards and respects. In villages, the families go to the river banks, cook and eat the meals in the open. They sing and dance with the Kummi and Kolattam and enjoy themselves. In towns and cities people, dressed in their best, throng the cinema theatres, exhibitions and museums. In general it is an outing for the entire family, more or less a picnic.

What Pongal means to the Tamils will be seen from the way preparations are done. The house is kept clean and whitewash is done, which gives a new look. All the members of the family wear new clothes. On the third day, people pay respect to the elders and exchange greetings. Thus, Festivals-whether it is the harvest festival in the South or the fantastic car festival of Puri have an essentially religious base.

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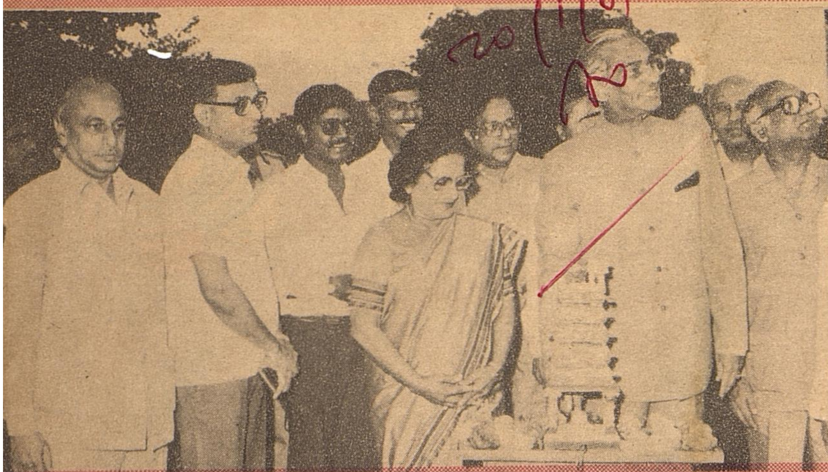

The first death anniversary of Dr. M.G.R. was observed on behalf of the Government of TamilNadu, at M.G.R. Samadhi in Madras on 24-12-1988